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SKETCHES

Of Cannon Falls



1854 - 1954

Cannon Falls, Minnesota

THE VAN DYKE CO. INC.
OF
NEW YORK CITY (1934)

Introduction

This is the Centennial year for our city and county, the grand year of the 100th birthday. We point with pride and a deep feeling of admiration to all of those who have lived for a time in this, the beautiful Cannon Valley; to those who wrested the farms from the wilderness, built the small industries, contributed in the many ways to our way of life and gave to us a community of honest, hard-working friendly people in which to live and work and raise our children.

The great passing parade of persons who in their time, as we in ours, enjoyed the green rolling hills and the turbulent roar of the Cannon rivers, fished the black bass and tramped the Cannon woods in search of game. They watched the maples turn to blazing glory with the frost and felt the soft, all engulfing silence of the first heavy mantle of snow.

There were terrible blizzards and hardships. There was sickness and shortage of food. There was sadness; and there was impatient watching for the first glimpse of spring, the warming of the sun, the appearance of the bloodroot, and finally the deep hoarse croaking of the frog which revealed to all the world that spring was once again in our land.

It is impossible to capture in any written article or articles the human factors as they bore upon the times. The tears, the pains, the heartbreaking sorrows, the fears, the joys, the loves of these 100 years cannot be reduced to print. There were men of great courage and women of greater courage. We can only pass along the facts as they happened.

It is with this realization in mind that this committee undertakes its work. The situations and events will relate in the main to the early part of this past 100 years. The selection of events may not be good. There may be disagreement on the facts. Events of importance may be overlooked and recognition made of things which might better have been left buried in the dust of the past.

Aware of these things, it is only the hope of this committee that you will enjoy these excerpts from yesterday. We believe the following stories and events are of importance and interest. If you don't know of them they will be new. If you do know of them these articles will refresh your memory. We will draw heavily from the files of the Cannon Falls Beacon and the various histories available. We will call on some of our older citizens for help. Our articles will be as accurate as it is possible for us to make them. They will not necessarily follow chronologically.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Albert Johnson, Chairman
Mrs. Richard Poe
Mildred Engstrom
Mrs. Myrtie Von Kohlston
Mrs. C. H. Lang
Lucretia Lewis
George Dalton

CANNON FALLS

Tell me no more of cities grand
Beyond the wide and rolling deep
That rest in beauty on the strand,
Or by some quiet lakelet sleep,
Or 'neath the crags of mountain steep
Where torrents rush through frowning walls
And onward to the ocean sweep,—
None can compare with Cannon Falls.

Swift to the deep and rolling sea
The lovely Cannon River flows,
With waves untrammelled and as free
As breeze that o'er its bosom blows,
While from its banks the fragrant rose
To goldenrod and aster calls,
"Entwine we now, each flower that grows,
A garland meet for Cannon Falls."

Where willows droop to kiss the wave,
And pine and poplar tower on high,
There flows the stream whose waters lave
The city's feet while passing by
And onward ripples with a sigh
And backward to the city calls,
"Farewell to thee, beneath the sky,
Thou'rt queen of cities, Cannon Falls."

From dawn to evening's falling light
A chorus rich awakes the shore
Where nature's minstrels all unite
And their enchanting anthems pour,
From tree or woodbine climbing o'er
The lowly bush or rugged walls,
The sweetest strains they have in store
They sing in praise of Cannon Falls.

The hills around uprear their crests
In serried ranks of living green,
While at their feet the city rests,
Resplendent as a jeweled queen,
Whose gorgeous robes and winsome mien
The heart of ev'ry one enthalls,—
Like her in all her beauty seen,
This lovely town of Cannon Falls.

I've seen the fair Aurora come
Far o'er Atlantic's heaving crest,
I've seen the silent twilight gloom
Fall on the broad Pacific's breast.
Go where I would, in vain my quest,
For memr'y never yet recalls,
From rosy east to golden west
A city fair as Cannon Falls.

— S. S. Lewis.

Era of the Indian

It is impossible to tell how long the area around the junctions of the Cannon rivers was occupied and inhabited by the Indians. It seems that they were a rather nomadic people who lived in bands and moved as food, weather and oppression from other Indians dictated. It is certain that the Sioux was in complete control of the area of Goodhue county when the first white man came in 1660. They called it Hemminne-cha which means Hill, Water, Wood, and they headquartered at the present Cannon Junction.

There are varied theories on the probability of another and distinctly different Indian living here prior to the Sioux. The many mounds in the area give rise to the theory that a different and highly cultured Indian preceded them. The Sioux practiced scaffold burial and not mound burial. Father Hennepin witnessed a scaffold burial at the mouth of the St. Croix river where it meets the Mississippi in 1660 when he crossed the river at that point. Dr. Sweney witnessed several such burials along the Mississippi near Red Wing.

Another theory is that the ancestors of the Sioux were mound builders and that the Sioux practiced both mound and scaffold burial at varied times. The truth of it is that no one will ever know the answer. It is certain that the Sioux roamed the hills and valleys at the time the white man came. The mounds will remain the silent sepulchre of a very old people. Who were they? Where did they come from? What happened to them will remain forever buried within their earth works. Dr. W. M. Sweney wrote of one particular mound at Cannon Junction upon which grew a great oak. The concentric rings indicated the tree was over 250 years old. This would mean that the mound existed at least from the time the acorn fell upon the mound those many years before. Other evidences show the mounds have been here for many years.

In the spring of the year 1902 Edward William Schmidt discovered what is considered an excellent example of a pre-historic fort at Welch, Minn. He named it Fort Sweney. In his account of the discovery, Mr. Schmidt states that the number of pits, mounds, and earthworks number forty-two. The position was so located as to enable a handful of men to successfully defend against a great number. The hill sides are very steep. The approach to the Fort, upon which only a few men could pass at a time, was fortified by pits which would hold 12 to 25 men.

At the extreme end and directly blocking the pass was a stockade. The Cannon river protected the other flank. Six large mounds crowned the enclosed area at the top of the hill.

The definite, marked and chartered mounds of the county numbered over 2,000 in 1900. This would indicate a very great expenditure of labor and energy. It also indicated a fairly large source of working people. Many if not most of the mounds have been plowed level or dug up in the process of building roads and structures.

The Sioux Indian found in the area by the white man was ordinarily tall and robust. Nearly all of the bands lived along the Mississippi near Red Wing and the Cannon Junction. However they ventured into the area of Cannon Falls in quest of fish and game. What record we have indicates that Wakoota — the Shooter— was the chief of the band. He was some over 60 years old at the time of the first settlement. For the most part he was friendly but was hampered by the savagery of Mahpiya-maza, an ugly, mean and untrustworthy man who was second in charge. It is not known how many of the Sioux of the Wakootas band took part in the Sioux uprising but at least one, Maca-tiniza—Standing Earth—was hanged at Mankato at the end of the Indian war.

The last encampment at Cannon Falls was in the year 1860. The grandfather of Ben Van Campen witnessed and described the incident. The teepees were pitched on the east bank of the Little Cannon river a short distance south of what is now highway 19 at the bend of the river. There were between 350 and 400 men, women and children in the group. They were on a fishing and hunting expedition and stayed at the place for the better part of three months. They left as quietly as they came, never to return to hunting and fishing in the place where the Cannon rivers join. It is not known when the hatred between the Sioux and Chippewa began but it was a real, deep, and sincere feeling. The battles and the taking of scalps caused the hills of the area to respond with shrill and anguished cries and then there was the deep silence of death whenever these people chanced upon each other. One of their last battles took place outside of Shakopee on May 27, 1858. The Sioux had taken a Chippewa scalp and were carrying on their savage rituals over the matter. The whites of the area eager for excitement and anxious to rid themselves of the Sioux informed the Chippewas of the fact and furnished them guns and ammunition to attack the Sioux. In all about 300 braves were engaged in the battle that lasted for one day. The dead were less than a dozen but there were many wounded.

There is the story told of an endeavor by Bishop Whipple at the time of the Civil War to prevail upon Chief Wabasha of the Sioux to stop fighting with the Chippewas. The old chief listened attentively and then said, "Huh! White man fight, killum plenty, me same Chippewa. What for talk?"

The Indian mode of living did not fit into the white man's scheme of things and so he disappeared very rapidly from the area after 1862. This occurred mainly through treaties, sale of his land, and coercion after the Sioux uprising.

The Pioneers

By the time the tide of immigration began into Minnesota Territory in the middle of the last century, it was possible for those who had the money to travel from the East to the banks of the Mississippi on the "steam cars." However, as one young homeseeker wrote back to his wife, three nights on the cars were very fatiguing. It had rained constantly and, though it settled the dust, it shut out the view. This added to the boredom of the trip and the depression caused by leaving home and family. At Galena, Ill., the river boat, named for the town awaited the weary passengers. Here was luxury and rest. These boats plying the Mississippi were surprisingly luxurious and rival companies vied with each other in gold paint and red plush as well as in speed.

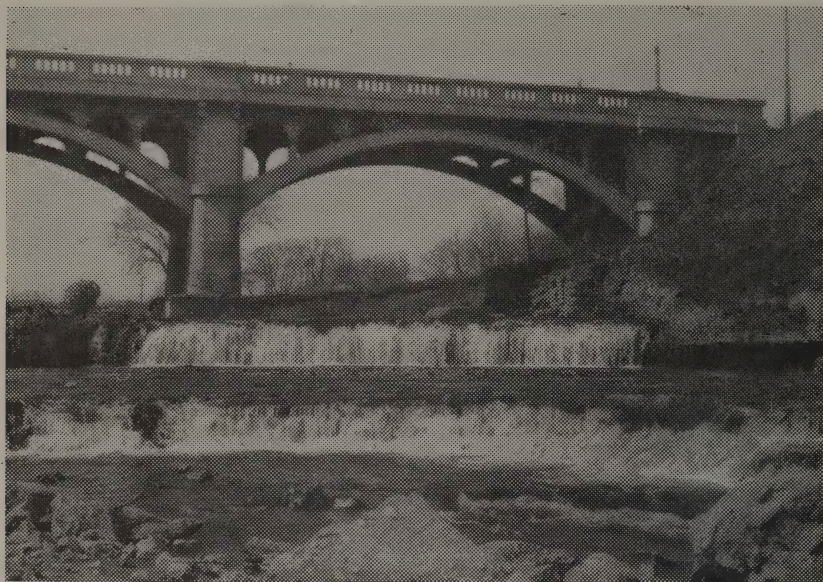
Some idea of the number of people streaming into this new country can be gained from a letter of one traveler who had debarked for a day or two at La Crosse. "You would be surprised," he wrote, "at the number of emigrants going through here. Four hundred crossed the ferry here last week and the stream for weeks has been constant."

Around the middle of the last century pressure on the government to open more land in the upper Mississippi valley had caused the Great White Father to negotiate with the Indians. No doubt, he would have liked to say, "Vamoose, and let my smart pale-faced children live there", but feeling that he must play the virtuous father role and that discretion was the better part of valor it seemed well to display some wampum and have impressive papers signed. Also he hoped that the pen was mightier than the tomahawk.

Almost before the papers were signed and the ink dried, Calvin Potter, Indian agent at Red Wing's village on the banks of the Mississippi, began to vision what that convenient spot would look like laid out in white man's streets and lots. The best man that he knew for the job was William Freeborn. Richard Freeborn, Sr. had come to St. Paul about 1850. With him came his two sons and two or three daughters. One was the wife of Dr. William Sweney who was the second doctor to locate there. Another was Mrs. Edward Murphy. Calvin Potter took a boat for St. Paul in the summer of 1852 but found William Freeborn too occupied to go to Red Wing immediately. Dr. Sweney and James McGinnis consented to go and the two set up bachelor's quarters in a building already on the site.

To many of the older residents of Cannon Falls the name Freeborn means the beginning of the town. The names of Richard, Jr. and William, and their brothers-in-law, William M. Sweney and Edward Murphy, appear on most abstracts of land in Cannon Falls. William Freeborn was a leader. In 1854 he was a territorial representative. At what time he was in southern Minnesota is not clear but Freeborn county and the town of Freeborn were named for him. The family seems to have been one of character and refinement and Goodhue county is fortunate in having had their pioneer leadership. The word pioneer comes from the French word for the men who went ahead and prepared the camping ground for the soldiers. In this sense these men were true pioneers. Rev. J. W. Hancock was an early missionary to the Indians living at Chief Red

Wing's village. His writings of the early days are invaluable. He refers to William Freeborn as "that whole-souled town proprietor" when telling of the Thanksgiving dinner that Mr. Freeborn served to all the people of Red Wing in 1853.



These are the falls as seen by William Freeborn and James McGinnis. The bridge, of course, was not in the picture as they saw it.

Dr. Sweney wrote in later years that the Indians went peacefully to St. Paul or Fort Snelling to receive the money for their land and to make their mark on government papers. Late in the fall they came back, in an ugly mood over the long delay. Freezing weather had come for which they were not prepared and their children were sick and they were all hungry. The new settlers did all they could for them and the Indian men soon brought in deer, the squaws running joyfully out to meet them and preparing the meal as quickly as possible and they soon felt better physically. However, their resentment smoldered for a long time. While the people did not fear the local Indians, they did not feel so sure of the wandering tribes so did not go far from town to hunt and fish. This and the business of laying out and selling land in Red Wing kept them at home so that it was not until 1854 that they had time to do much exploring and before they found the water power on the Cannon river.

They called it the Cannon but perhaps a century before, the French hunters and trappers referred to it as the Riviere Canots—the French word for canoe. When they went off to the west to hunt buffalo, they paddled their canoes up the Canots river, leaving them out of sight of any Mississippi river traffic. In the year 1805 Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike came up the Mississippi to negotiate with the Indians for the land on which Fort Snelling was built. He relates in his log of the trip that he stopped to visit the Indians at the mouth

of the Canoe river. Some of the Englishmen hearing the French saying *Riviere Canots*—the emphasis being on the last syllable and that being spoken through the nose—thought they were saying Cannon, and Cannon river it became. Many have speculated that the name came from the falls sounding like the noise of a big gun. In truth, there is not much resemblance between the two noises.

It seems probable that it was William Freeborn and James McGinnis who started out on foot to do some exploring up what had for some time then been known as the Cannon river. As mentioned before this was in 1854. One writer reports that Dr. Sweney was with them. Cannon Falls would have been fortunate if he had been. He wrote at various times of those early days and a written chronicle of that trip would have been valuable. As it was, William and James seem to have done no writing but the story of their arrival here has been handed down by word of mouth.

The late Dr. C. L. Scofield of Benson grew up in Cannon Falls and always retained an active interest in the history and progress of the town. As he told the story, and others have heard it—the men forded the river a few miles out of Red Wing and walked up the valley on the north bank of the river, perhaps to secure a better view than they were getting in the woods of the south bank. Night found them on the bare hill somewhere above the Cook farm, where Roy Carls has lived for some years, and they spent the night in some sort of a shelter there, supposedly left by some wayfarer. They woke to a sunshiny day and being “monarchs of all they surveyed” they stood and surveyed the landscape. Off to the southwest something sparkled and shone. Nothing but water could shine that way and falling water at that. Undoubtedly, they arrived at the falls in short order and what they saw was water falling and splashing over ledges of lime rock in the little tributary of the Cannon. Not only that but for a distance the river practically ran down hill, a drop of twenty-six feet, later surveys showed. That meant power when harnessed and power meant industries and industries meant work and livelihood for many families. A veritable Eldorado, a Lowell (Mass.) of the west it was soon called. Possibly, too, they saw outcroppings of good building stone and gravel to use in the mortar to hold it together. It is quite possible that their discovery spread like wildfire through Red Wing when they returned.

Charles Parks and his wife had been living in Red Wing since 1852. He had been making prospecting tours out around the country and soon came to see what Freeborn and McGinnis had found. He decided this was the place for him. For an old settlers’ meeting in 1882, Mr. Parks wrote down his reminiscences of those early days. They were printed in the *Beacon* and give accurate data, especially as to 1954.

When he arrived in the summer of that year, he found Edway Stoughton already living directly above the falls to the south. As this was the land which James McGinnis pre-empted in November 1954, it seems probable that he had sent Mr. Stoughton, who was a bachelor, to hold his claim. A log cabin was built, which was the first house in Cannon Falls. Mr. McGinnis had moved his family from Red Wing and was living in it, Mr. Stoughton living with them in 1855, an account says. It was his land and probably his house. Just why William Freeborn was credited with building the first house in Cannon Falls is hard to understand. Perhaps it is just

one of those stories no one has ever bothered to verify. At any rate it was placed on the river bank, about where the Lampert Lumber company office now stands, like a sentinel guarding the town's future water power.



Above is a picture of the first house built in Cannon Falls as described in the accompanying article. The picture was taken at an old settlers' gathering in 1872. Shown from left to right are Rev. J. R. Barnes, William Stranahan, Swante Anderson, Captain David L. Davis, Charles Scofield (seated), James H. Wright, George McKenzie, Rev. Elijah W. Merrill, James L. Scofield, Rev. James Peckham, Mrs. Peckham, Giles Slocum, Mrs. Slocum, Mrs. James Wright, Sherman Hale, Mrs. Hale, William P. Tanner and Archibald H. Knox.

A man named Stephen Hicks had taken land about a mile west of town and Mr. Parks staked out his claim along the Big Cannon including the Big Falls, now covered by the lake. If James McGinnis had a water power, he would have one, too! Later, for many years the swift rapids and falls of the Little Cannon were buried from sight beneath the waters behind the dam and many a person lived here for a time and went away, supposing the town was named for the Big Falls. But it was around the falls of the little river that the people built their homes and their hopes. When they wanted to have a picnic and enjoy natural grandeur, they went out to the Big Falls.

The names of Solomon Southwick, James H. Payton and William Thomas can be quickly passed over though the latter remained for some years and three sons served in the Civil War.

Though Mr. Parks took land outside of town, he and Mrs. Parks spent the rest of their lives here. His activities will be reviewed later with the story about the first houses and hotels. With no children of their own, they adopted a daughter, Ruth, who later married Fred Youngberg. Sometime after his death she married Wilson Reese of LeSueur. She died about thirty years ago.

Coming together in July 1854 were young Mr. and Mrs. George Season and Alonzo Dibble, unmarried at the time. Mr. Dibble chose the land southwest of town still farmed by his grandson and great grandson. Mr. Season took land near where Merle Tate now lives.

Though this part of the narrative is confined to giving names of 1854 settlers, it seems a suitable place to relate a story concerning that winter when young Mrs. Season desperately needed the services of a physician. Mr. Dibble, starting at four o'clock in the morning walked the nearly thirty miles to Red Wing to get the doctor. It was undoubtedly Dr. Sweney who on horseback started for the Season home as fast as possible leaving Mr. Dibble to rest and tramp the long way back. When the doctor arrived, he found the young mother and her infant were past his help, and Mr. Dibble returned to find his effort had been in vain.



The Big Falls

Mr. Parks devoted a long paragraph to the sad event couched in the poetic language thought suitable at that time. Speaking of the burial he said, "Though it was mostly strong men, inured to hardships and dangers that stood around that lone grave, none there made an effort to hide their tears or deemed it derogatory to their manhood to shed this tribute of sorrow and respect to the departed."

Mr. Season married again and again he was left a widower, this time with three daughters and a son. Mrs. Nellie Alpstag and Mrs. Florence Taylor left no descendants around here. Emmeline Season, a lady of poise and distinction, held positions of trust in the state government for many years, dying about 1952. Harry Season was killed about 1890 in a runaway accident, his wife Emmeline Ben-

way Season bearing a son, Harry, after the father's death. He lives in Minneapolis.

George Season's third marriage to Margaret Jane Taylor, brought him two more daughters: May, who became Mrs. Clarence Taylor of Red Wing, and Jennie, who married a Methodist minister. They also left no descendants here.

The year also brought Mr. Season's brother, John, and his wife. They chose land near his brother's but retired early to town where they raised a large family. The daughters were May, Ida and Dolsey. May became the wife of Leonard Rosing, a Cannon Falls merchant and long a figure in Minnesota political life. They had two sons and a daughter. Mrs. Clair Shellenbarger who was Elizabeth Rosing is their granddaughter. Ida Season married Eugene Hitchings, who upon her death married her sister, Dolsey. Mr. and Mrs. Hitchings and some of their family still reside in California. The Season sons, perhaps not in proper order, were Charles, Fred, Frank, Ira (a twin to Ida), Walter and John. Leonard Season, better known by his nickname "Mox" is a son of Charles. So barring any error, he and his cousin, Elizabeth, are the only descendants of 1854 pioneers who live within the city.

The Dibbles also came in twos, though they did not team up. Jonathan Dibble settled in the Little Cannon valley about five miles from town. Sometime later he married Ann Smith and they had a family of three sons and a daughter. Their mother dying while they were still young, Jonathan married their mother's sister, Sarah. He left the farm and purchased the house which has been owned now for a long time by Wm. Golden Sr. Mr. Dibble was operating one of those public necessities of the time, a livery stable, in 1877, when he died quite suddenly.

One son, Nathan died in early manhood. The daughter, Minnie Dibble Penney also died young and left a little son who was adopted by James Elder and his wife, Lizzie Benway Elder. As Milford Elder he grew up, graduated from Annapolis, and became a navy officer, now retired. The other two sons were Richard and Daniel, Dick and Dan to their Cannon Falls friends, where they were businessmen most of their lives. Richard Dibble married Ella Coplin and had one daughter, Olive. She married Judge Charles Hall of Red Wing, who was district judge for many years. After Ella's death, Mr. Dibble married Bertha Kowitz and their children were Archie, now of Minneapolis and Glee (Mrs. V. Johnson of Hinsdale, Illinois). Daniel Dibble married Isabelle Saunders and they had a son and a daughter. Donald lives in Kasson and has one son. Jean Holmes Sanders lives in St. Peter. Her daughter is Betty Holmes Stafford of Minneapolis. Jean also has two sons who are graduates of Annapolis and West Point respectively, Col. Myrlin D. Holmes (Marines), Washington, D. C. and Major Robert M. Holmes (Army), Washington, D. C.

The story has so far left bachelor Alonzo Dibble out on his claim alone. Bachelorhood is no state for a farmer. No bread winner needs the help of a wife more than a farmer. Mr. Dibble knew his way out of that difficulty and in April 1955 he married Louise Ahlers and took her to live in the house he had built, across the road from the present Dibble homestead. And this started the 100 years occupancy of a piece of land by one family to the fifth generation.

When in May 1856, the first child was due to arrive, Mr. Dibble transported his wife by oxcart to her old home in Hay Creek where she could have her mother's care and be nearer to the doctor in Red Wing. The experience of a little over a year before, of Mrs. Season's death was a lesson not to be forgotten. When the baby came, they called her Sarah. Next came Alice which must have been something of a disappointment as every couple wants a son, especially on the farm. It was not too long though before they were able to say "our son, Edward".

While Mrs. Dibble escaped the fate of young Mrs. Season, Sarah was only thirteen years old when the children were left motherless. After a time Mr. Dibble again knew how to remedy his situation and took as his wife a worthy lady, Rebecca Chapman. Sarah is known to have said she was a good mother to them, encouraging them in their school work as well as carrying out the other duties of a mother.

In 1884 Sarah married Dr. H. E. Conley, a young physician of Cannon Falls. Together they were moving spirits in the town's life. Mrs. Conley had the spirit of a crusader and dealt vigorously with anything she thought needed righting. Dr. and Mrs. Conley had two sons and three daughters. Surviving are Mrs. Ora Dreher with two sons and Eldridge Conley with one daughter. They both live in Owatonna. Hiram Conley of Colorado and Mary Conley Luesse of Mound are grandchildren.

Alice Dibble married Frank Richardson and they both taught at different times in the Cannon Falls schools. Of their three daughters, Zell lives in Chicago, Cora in New York and Louise in South Dakota. The only son, George, died in California some time ago.

In the year 1885, Edward married Laura Crook, a neighbor girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Crook, and they began housekeeping on the family homestead. They had two daughters and twin sons. The second daughter, Jessie, died in her youth, about 1907. Della of Minneapolis, the older daughter, is the widow of John Aslakson who was born and raised in Cannon Falls. She has one daughter, Jessie Louise, who in her turn married and has four children. Willis, one of the twins, is married and lives in Chicago but has no children.

It fell to Willard to become the farmer and as his father did before him he gradually took over the reins and the burden from his father. He married Cora Hanson of Minneapolis and they have two children, Willard Jr. and Peggy, who as Mrs. Lee Hanson lives in Minneapolis and has one child.

Again the transition is taking place and Willard Jr. is assuming more of the load leaving his father more freedom for his duties as county commissioner. With the three small sons which he and his wife, who was Eleanor Daniels of Stanton, are raising in the family tradition the future looks good for many years more of the Dibble family on the Dibble acres.

Through the years the men have been forward looking farmers and together with their wives have taken active interest in town affairs, in the Episcopal church, the Masonic lodge, the Eastern Star chapter and other community affairs. Edward Dibble for a number of years headed the Farmers Creamery association, the Stanton town board and their district school claimed much of his attention through the years. When the school board for the newly reorganized school

district was formed, Willard Jr. was elected a member. Edward Dibble died in 1951 after he and Mrs. Dibble had spent sixty-six years together. She still lives in their comfortable house in town.

With this record of a nice balance between farm living and city interests, it would be hard to find a single family better fitted to represent the 100 years of both town and country. It seems that the Dibble family could be hailed as the Centennial Family.

The winter of 1855 and 1856 might have been a lonely one in the new community but for the fact that there were many travelers going through, both to the west and to the north. They sought food and shelter of the settlers which made extra work and taxed their slender food supply. The men and boys of the community found plenty of employment — cutting logs for building purposes and preparing the limbs for fuel.

Mr. Parks, seeing the need for a hotel, cut logs and started a building which he sold to one of the first men who came along in the spring, Andrus Durand.

In April came two brothers, William and Luther Scofield, with their wives and three teen-age children in each family. William took land across the little Cannon, west of the first house built in town. He built a substantial stone house which was probably the first use made of the native limestone and which is still standing. One of his daughters was Lozetta, who became Mrs. James Carpenter. She was the mother of Harry Carpenter.



These three buildings were among the first business places in Cannon Falls. The one story building at the right was the Scofield Bros. drug store and occupied the same location as the present store.

Luther Scofield preempted land on the North side, part of which is now the fair grounds. Later he bought the farm that has been the property of the Felien family for a long time. Two of the sons of this family, Wilbur and James, in 1868 built a frame building on what is now Fourth street and started a drug store. Ten years later they built the store building which the Scofield firm still occupies. When Wilbur Scofield died, his son Fred W. continued in his father's

place, having for some time been practically a third partner. His older brother, Charles, was already established as a physician at Benson, Minn. A sister, Susan, was a pianist and piano teacher and became Mrs. William Danforth. After James Scofield died in 1919 and his wife in 1922, Fred W. purchased their share from their daughters, Mrs. A. J. Glover of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, and Mrs. R. M. Poe who lives south of town.

It is almost unnecessary to complete the story by telling that for years the store has been under the competent management of Fred W.'s daughter, Helen Scofield Holland, and his son, Wilbur H. They have an older sister, Mrs. Carl Westover who lives in California. Had it not been for World War II the third Wilbur Scofield would have been behind the prescription counter now, relieving his father. A sniper's bullet cut short a promising young life. His brother, Charles, is preparing to take his place.

Among the men who came that year of 1855 was Hugh Montgomery. He preempted the slopes to the east and southeast. He is of interest because he built the limekiln from which the hill received its name. Generations of children have called it the "Lankin" hill and were not corrected because the parents probably didn't know about the kiln. It was built against the hillside, a circular stone oven with a small opening on the lower side for stoking the fire. The lime rock so plentiful just above, was thrown into the furnace and burned until it disintegrated into pure lime which was used for mortar. It was a very ancient process as the "burning of lime" is referred to in the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Mr. Montgomery later moved to California as did the Freeborns.

In June of that year three brothers came from New York State, bearing a name that is still familiar. They were Horace, Ulysses and William P. Tanner, the latter being the only one with a family. He came, however, to prepare a home for them, bringing them out in 1856. Mrs. Tanner was Elizabeth Colvill, sister of the Colonel of Gettysburg fame. Their children were Walter, William, Kate, George and Mary. The three brothers took land on the east edge of town and around to the north along the river. The large house east of the cemetery was the Ulysses Tanner home. Though he married, he had no children. Horace did not remain here long.

William P. Tanner served Cannon Falls long and faithfully on church, school and village boards. His daughter, Miss Katherine Tanner taught off and on in the town school from 1877 to 1896 and a roll call of the oldsters who came under her tutelage would be a long one. Her brother, William, was one of the wellknown men of Cannon Falls, for years. He farmed and operated a nursery on the southeast edge of town with F. B. Seager, father of Mrs. Richard Mattson. Wm. Tanner married Anna Krabel and their children were Walter, Harry, Ralph, all deceased, and Mrs. Florence Barnes of Washington state and Paul Tanner, who has been postmaster for a number of years.

In 1858 the parents of Wm. P., Ulysses and Horace Tanner came here from Madison, N. Y. Captain Ralph Tanner had been a soldier in the war of 1812. He died in 1868 and his wife, Laura J., in 1878 and both are buried in the Cannon Falls cemetery.

As that summer of 1855 advanced, the number of settlers increased, though most of them were farmers. Many came who did not stay or if they did, left no families. Eli Ellsworth arrived that summer and built a large house for his family. As the story of his participation in the life of the early days will be told in a later chapter we will only say here that he was the grandfather of both Mr. and Mrs. Horace Ellsworth.

In 1903 the Beacon published, serially, a history of those early days. It was written by E. L. Clark, a bachelor, who also settled in the new hamlet in 1855. This is full of valuable information and adds greatly to that mentioned before, written by Charles Parks in 1882. Mr. Clark relates that soon after he came he made a coffin and attended the burial of an unmarried man in Warsaw township. He was soon employed in constructing homes for the living and Mr. Clark, with his long beard and carpenter's apron was a familiar sight for many years. He was a man of enough education to make him feel justified in starting a school the next year. That story and others in which Mr. Clark had a part will appear later. In 1858 he married Mary Elizabeth Wright, daughter of a pioneer family of whom you will hear in another chapter. Another daughter married Abraham Doner who settled in the hamlet in the fall of 1855.

Though they left no family here, Abe Doner had a large part in building Cannon Falls. He constructed the first public school building, the old Congregational church, the Episcopal church and many homes including the one on the west side, which has been the home of the Nathaniel Goudy family for years. He carried on until 1894 and probably one of the last homes he built was for the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Krabiell, now belonging to Mrs. Bertha Dibble. Though Mr. Clark didn't speak of it, he worked right along with Mr. Doner. The Genevieve Bloomberg house was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clark, where they raised a daughter, Nellie, who became Mrs. Walter Hitchings and Will, who married a Cannon Falls teacher, Miss Kingston.

Another carpenter who came to town in 1855 was Stephen Van Guilder. He was from Vermont and his wife, Caroline Knowlton, from Boston. They had seven children, Ida, Ira, Edith, John, Cecil, Mebel and Stephen. Edith married Nelson Miller, son of Harrison Miller, a Stanton pioneer, so their three daughters who have lived in the vicinity all their lives, are pioneer descendants on both their father's and mother's sides. The daughters are, the late Mrs. William Moorhouse, Mrs. George Van Voorhis and Mrs. Mathew Van Guilder.

John Wilson came in 1855 and for years assisted the citizens when they needed legal advice and was justice of the peace for years. He married Susan Poe, daughter of Rev. R. M. Poe, who came to Rice county in 1858 and to the vicinity of Cannon Falls in 1860. The Wilsons had three children, Edward; the late George Wilson and Kate, Mrs. C. H. Lang. Edward's two sons, Claire and George, also live in town.

The town was laid out by James McGinnis, William Freeborn and William Colvill during the summer. Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hartery were living in the hamlet and their daughter, Ellen, was the first child born here. Robert Fotherby and Sarah Strange came before Charles Parks, justice of the peace and he performed the first

wedding ceremony in the town. Mr. and Mrs. Fotherby lived the rest of their lives here but left no children.

When an event of importance occurs, newspapers send out reporters to get an on-the-spot account. Diaries and old letters come under the heading of on-the-spot reports, but concerning the early days in Cannon Falls, unfortunately, they are difficult to locate in the time available. With this in mind excerpts from letters written in Cannon Falls in the summer of 1855 become of especial interest.

In 1931 the University of Minnesota Press published a book written by Seth K. Humphrey who was born and raised in Faribault, from which they have kindly given permission to quote. The book called, "Following the Prairie Frontier" is the story of his own life but to preface it, he follows his father's trail from Connecticut to Faribault by way of the brand new little hamlet called Cannon Falls. Here young David Humphrey, 21 years old, wrote long letters back to his old home. Landing at Red Wing from the river steamer, War Eagle, he and his companion, John Forward, set out on foot for Cannon Falls.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon but they had learned there was a place about three miles out where they could spend the night but found no less than four families camped in wagons and tents so "we had nothing for it but to go seven miles farther on and throw ourselves upon the hospitality of a Connecticut-Yankee, just arrived and located in the midst of one of the finest rolling prairies the eye ever beheld." That would be ten miles from Red Wing, twelve miles from Cannon Falls. Does anyone near Vasa recognize that description of his farm and does a "Yankee" name appear first on their abstract of title? This cabin of rough boards, 12x16 feet, they found occupied by three women, four men and three boys and about the cabin were wagons with more travelers, like themselves.



AN EARLY VIEW — Here is a picture of the west side of Fourth street as it appeared in the early years of Cannon Falls.

The last chapter of this story contained none of the excitement that was abroad in the new country so it is time to let some of it show and young David Humphrey's letters were full of it. "The

next morning," he continues, "reluctantly bidding goodbye, we again took our course for Cannon Falls. This renowned place we found to consist of two log hotels and two cabins for private residence. The town is regularly laid out and the rush here is great. Every day numbers are coming in and making claims anywhere in the vicinity and it doubtless soon will be quite a town. There are two or three good water falls here, sufficient for a large amount of machinery!"

Later he tells of helping his friend "Forward" stake out a claim west of town. Perhaps some one out that way has the land John Forward preempted and evidently sold as no more is heard of him. They must have made their presence felt in the new town as eighteen years later Mr. Parks names them among the people who came that year. Using Cannon Falls as a base David spent the summer hunting for the place where he wanted to live. Once he wrote, "for three weeks I have hardly seen a bed, tramped an average of fifteen miles a day." As was said before, he found it at Faribault, where he lived the rest of his life.

Every organized town has corporate limits but everything is done to encourage the commercial and social flow across the lines. This is especially true in a farming community. It was as true in pioneer days as it is now, only in lesser degree. The grocer needed the farmer's eggs and butter and the farmer needed flour and sugar. And they all needed each other's company and the diversion brought by visiting. So "Cannon Falls" consisted of all the people—in and out and round about!

The first men seeking farms in 1854 found that to the west the land was easily accessible and largely ready for the plow. David Humphrey had explored farther out that way and wrote a glowing description of it. Here is the way it looked to him. "Prairie Creek, about six miles from here, is the gem of a prairie. To give you a little idea of the rapidity with which the country is filling up, this prairie of Prairie Creek was all unclaimed last Monday morning and in three days 3,000 acres were taken. One man can have only 160 acres. All the settlers there are New Englanders. The country about there is splendid, the soil almost fabulously rich and the beauty of the whole must be seen to be appreciated."

That must have been the week that a large company of people driving oxen and horses and having cattle also, came into town from Wisconsin and after camping a few days moved on out and decided to settle along Prairie Creek. They were originally from Vermont.

The oldest member of the party was William Stanton, for whom at a later date the township was named, having been called Lillian for ten years or so before. With him were two sons William Jr. and John and a son-in-law Norman Daniels. After the death of the Stantons' daughter, Mr. Daniels married Alice Finney. They had two daughters and a son, who is Ray Daniels, long a resident of Cannon Falls. Before coming here Norman Daniels had adopted a boy and given him the name of William Daniels. He was Henry Daniels, Mrs. Michael Crump's father. There were others in the party who left no descendants.

In April of 1855, Mr. and Mrs. John Deline came to settle in Cherry Valley near Oxford. When they came they had three daughters and a son, having lost a five year old girl in 1848. Two more daughters were born in '58 and '59 but tragedy also came to their

home that year as it too often did in those early days. The two oldest daughters, 15 and 13 years of age and their only boy nine, all died. They were left with three daughters who grew up here and became Mrs. Frank Deline, Mrs. Alvin Van Guilder, mother of Mrs. John Tate, and Mrs. Samuel Sumner, Harlan Sumner's grandmother. Merle Tate lives on the farm his great-grandfather preempted.

The same year Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Clifford came to Stanton from Maine with a daughter and five grown sons. Living on the coast the boys grew up in the sea-faring tradition. The oldest one went to sea on the maiden voyage of a ship which was never heard from again. The family monument in Cannon Falls cemetery perpetuates his memory. The next oldest son, Arthur, was a sailor for some time, and the others wanting to do likewise, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford decided to get as far away from the sea as possible.

Mr. Clifford took land a few miles out along the river, part of which is now submerged by the lake. He added to it until he had 500 acres. Later they moved to town and built the house on the west side where Mr. and Mrs. Ingvold Knutson now live. Arthur, Everett, Fred and John Clifford all became farmers. A. L. Clifford always lived in town, for years being the express man, who with his sturdy horse and special express wagon were a familiar sight. Mrs. Olaf Lilleboe, granddaughter of Arthur Clifford, is the only one of the family here at the present time. She and Mr. Lilleboe own and live on part of the original Jonathan Clifford farm.

A. H. Van Voorhis also came in 1885. George Van Voorhis is a grandson and Arthur Van Guilder, a great grandson.

Alexander Harrison and his wife, Margaret Jamison Harrison, came to Minnesota territory from County Down, Ireland, and settled in Leon township in 1855. In 1863 they bought the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Smith. Their children were James, who never married; Mrs. Belle Robinson, Mrs. Betsy Lapham, twins; Mrs. Maggie Simons and Mrs. Susie Bacon. Mrs. Herman Dack, Frank and Harry Lapham, and Mrs. Millie Sackett are grandchildren.

One of the many attractions that Minnesota Territory held out to home-seekers was its climate. What is undoubtedly the first published history of Goodhue county contains a dissertation on Minnesota's healthful climate that sounds like the Chamber of Commerce on its busiest day. It reads, "The healthfulness of the climate has long been a subject of comment and admiration. The area is exempted from malaria and like fevers. Many such diseases which affect mankind are produced by the poisonous exhalations from the earth and these are effectually destroyed by the low temperature of our winters that continue for four months." Continuing it was stated that physicians were at that time, advising "consumptive" patients to visit Minnesota rather than the warmer climes.

Down in Indiana in those days was a young wife and mother with little hope for a long life. She belonged to a "consumptive family". There was no myth or superstition about the term, whole families died off one after another from what is now called tuberculosis. Hoping to at least prolong her life, her husband, Rev. Charles Curran, took on the laborious task of bringing her and their two small daughters, by oxen team to the healthful state of Minnesota.

With them was a young man named George Brooks and on arrival here both men took claims out along the river toward Randolph. There another daughter and two sons were born. About 1865 the two men sold their land to Eli Ellsworth who already owned land farther west across the road. They took land in Dakota county and moved the family to the new location. For years, Mr. Curran, a Methodist minister, preached in homes all over the area, even as far away as Castle Rock. Before the sixties were over, however, he and his wife succumbed to the dread disease they had tried to get away from and the oldest daughter died of what probably was appendicitis.



MAIN STREET LOOKING EAST — While this picture was taken at a very early date in the town's history, some of the buildings are still standing. At the far end of the street is the Exchange House which later became the Platt House. It was torn down to make way for the Norris Implement Co. building.

Mr. Brooks cared for the children as best he could until in 1871 he married Josephine Klock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Klock, pioneers of Sogn Valley. Together, they took care of the four Curran children as though they were their own until each one was of an age to leave home. The oldest daughter became Mrs. A. L. Clifford and lived a long and useful life in Cannon Falls. The youngest daughter, Mrs. Belle Price, was Mrs. R. P. Yale's mother. Robert Curran was long a physician and surgeon in Mankato. When Charles Curran and Emma Conley, sister of the doctors so long known here, became engaged, they had a house built for themselves, on the west side, between the homes of A. E. Engstrom and S. S. Lewis. Being on hand to see the young lovers watching the progress of their future home, Mr. Lewis began to call the locality "Paradise Plain" when referring to it in the Beacon and "Paradise Plain" it has always been. The Charles Currans had four sons and a daughter who

all, more or less, think of Cannon Falls as home. Miss Margaret Brooks lives in Worthington, where she taught school for years and where her mother died.

The story of Rev. Charles Curran's devotion to his wife and to the spiritual needs of the young community and Mr. and Mrs. Brooks' illustration of what true friendship can mean form a pioneer saga worth remembering, whether the reader knew them or not.

Another minister who came here for his health was Rev. J. R. Barnes. After a severe illness he was advised to try the climate of Minnesota. He preached for a time at St. Anthony but wanting an outdoor life, he came to Cannon Falls and took land which is now part of the Dibble farm, and brought his wife and three daughters from Ohio, in 1856. The oldest daughter, Julia, who was seventeen when they came, went back to Ohio, but Kate married the son of a pioneer family, Edward McKenzie as did her sister Caroline, who married William Hillman.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes were here in time to aid the New Englanders in forming the church of their choice, though Mr. Barnes was a Presbyterian minister, rather than a Congregationalist. It was common in those formative days for the two church organizations to assist each other in their missionary and church building efforts.

The Minnesota climate restored Mr. Barnes to full health and he lived to be ninety-five years of age, dying January 1, 1900.

Going back to the neighborhood of the Currans, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hitchings in 1855 claimed land to the north of what has been Ellsworth land for 100 years. They had three sons, Charles, Walter and Eugene and a daughter, Cora, who married Luther Ellsworth, after they had grown up on adjoining farms. They were the parents of Horace Ellsworth, who still lives on the farm of his grandfather, Eli Ellsworth.

Down the road to the east lived the Ira Shepards. They had come from western New York with Mr. and Mrs. William Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Mallet and Mr. and Mrs. Lerow. They were all young couples and the young women were all sisters. With them came two of their brothers, Harlow and Willis Van Vliet. Later a niece was brought here to live, after her father, Darius Van Vliet, died in New York. She was Minnie Van Vliet, who grew up here and married Jacob Fraley. For years they lived on the farm west of town that was first taken by William Thomas, then owned for years by Mr. and Mrs. Fotherby, then by the Fraleys. Mrs. Therma Fraley Guertin, who lives south of town, is their daughter. She is the only Van Vliet descendant here, with the exception of her own daughters. The Shepards lost a daughter while living on the farm. Hers was the first grave in the Randolph cemetery. Abram Mallet, brother of Stephen, and his wife came about the same time, raised a family here and lie among the pioneers in the Cannon Falls cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Kendall were living still farther east along the road, when in the spring of 1856, Levi Hillman took land between the hills to the north, started a log cabin, and went back to Massachusetts after his wife, twin sons, Charles and William, and year old Mary. A month later Fred Hillman was born at the home of their good friends the Kendalls. He out-lived every one who was there at that time, dying in 1949. Little Mary grew up and married James

Scofield and like her friend, Mary Curran Clifford, spent a long and useful life in Cannon Falls. The father of the family, Levi lived only six years, another victim of the dread "consumption."

Still on the north side of the river but to the east there is a farm that had been in the Peters family for years, nearly one hundred years, when the grandson, Clarence Peters, sold it and retired to town. John and Christine Peters migrated from Sweden in 1851 and after living in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, came to Goodhue county in 1856 and began long years of toil to make a home and living for their family. Their son J. August Peters continued their work as did his son, Clarence. Their other sons were Oscar, long a hardware merchant in Cannon Falls, and father of Mrs. Al Remme, and William, father of Eldridge Peters. Their daughter was the wife of one of Cannon Falls' long-time skillful tailors, John Swanson. Miss Agnes Swanson and Mrs. H. V. E. Johnson are their daughters.

Usually when a hill, valley or small stream receives an informal name, it comes about gradually in an effort to distinguish it. Out east of Cannon Falls though, in 1855 a man set about deliberately to name a valley for himself. The name lived as it is still called Clark Valley. The man's name was Warren Clark. E. L. Clark who was no relation, called him eccentric but a very good stone mason, almost a genius. He and his wife lived out in his valley but he worked in town and anywhere his type of help was needed. He lived here about five years.

Another early settler near there was Daniel Holland. One of Mr. and Mrs. Holland's sons was Martin, father of John Holland, for years Cannon Falls' only policeman and night-watchman. It is easy for the old timers as well as the not-too-old to see, in their mind's eye, Mr. Holland, tall and erect, in his blue uniform, standing on Fourth street, keeping an eye on things in general. Stephen and Ann Holland who have lived here all their lives, are his son and daughter. Another son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Holland was Daniel, grandfather of Matthew and Jane Holland Judge, mother of John, Frank and Daniel Judge and grandmother of the young folks of that name who are here.

All Goodhue county histories credit Haldor Johnson with being the first settler in Leon township. He was thirty-one years of age when in the year 1854, he came alone from Dane county, Wisconsin, where he had been for some time, and chose a place for a home for himself and the girl back in Wisconsin, who had promised to be his wife. He cleared land and built a cabin and was ready for winter. Either by pre-arranged plans or because he just happened along, another home seeker, Regnald Johnson, spent the winter with him. The next summer Haldor went back to Wisconsin, married Anna Ostgorden and brought her to the new home on the land that is still owned by the family. His grandsons, Albert and William Lund, live on the homestead.

The same summer Regnald Johnson Ohnstad took land near by and carried on a parallel story, as his grandson, Raymond Ohnstad and his wife, now occupy the large house that Mr. Ohnstad built for his family of five sons and one daughter. Peter Ohnstad, who lives in town is one of the boys who grew up in the big house.



AN EARLY VIEW OF CANNON FALLS — This picture taken from Limekiln hill shows in the foreground the remains of the lime kiln from which the hill took its name. The first building at the right is the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Al Flom. Just beyond to the right is the old school house, where the city hall now stands. The house in about the center of the picture was the W. H. Scofield home, now the home of Mrs. Ira Waters. The Swanson home, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Norris, is at the left of the picture, with the Episcopal church just beyond.

Carl Anders Haggstrom and his wife made the long trip from Sweden starting in the fall of 1854, stopping for a time in Illinois and reaching Red Wing in May, 1855. Leaving his wife there, he chose land in what is now Leon not far from the two new settlers just mentioned. He built a log cabin with a sod roof, which cost him \$2.50, then went back to Red Wing and brought his wife to her new home. At the same time Magnus Edstrom and Johannes Vanberg took claims near by, all three lying along the trail that led from Rochester to St. Paul. There were hardships to be endured but their situation wasn't as lonely as many, as settlers streamed along that road for years and many must have stopped for water if for no other reason. Carl Haggstrom was followed on his farm by his son, August, and then by his grandson, Ephriam, with Arthur and Clarence, his brothers, also still living in the township in which they grew up.

The Magnus Edstrom land was farmed by his son, Axel, and then by another son, Ferdinand, and was sold some time ago. Their sons, Milton and Reuben, respectively, as well as Milton's sister,

Mrs. Ruth Munson, and their cousin, Mrs. Frances Swanson, daughter of John Edstrom, live in town.

Johannes Vanberg's son, Frank, succeeded him but having only daughters the farm has passed into other hands. Reta McKeag, daughter of Nathaniel McKeag and the late Blanche Vanberg McKeag, is the only descendant here.

Coming to Leon township in 1856 was William Greaves and his wife and family of five sons and a daughter. Originally from Canada, they came here by ox team from Iowa. They settled on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Edlund where they built a large stone house. Not used for years it eventually had to be torn down some time ago. The valley soon took their name and is still called the Greaves Valley by old timers. The parents are buried in the Cannon Falls cemetery but the sons grew up and moved elsewhere, one being a doctor, and two of them druggists. For a time in the seventies John Greaves had a machinery business in Cannon Falls, later farming near Northfield.

What has long been called Sogn Valley was settled originally by families of English extraction. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Babcock came to Goodhue county in 1856 because Mr. Babcock's uncle, W. D. Chilson, was a citizen of Red Wing. Mr. and Mrs. Lucian Oakes also came, Mrs. Oakes being Mr. Babcock's sister. Emma Babcock taught the first school in Warsaw township. She married Jonathan Poe and in 1869 they bought the farm on which their son, Richard, has lived for nearly forty years. Lucy Oakes, Emma Babcock's cousin, taught school in the Dibble district, which probably brought about her marriage to Wilbur Scofield, who lived in that neighborhood and who had taught that school himself.

It has been mentioned before that two of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wright became Mrs. E. L. Clark and Mrs. Abraham Doner. Another daughter, Eliza, married Robert Magee who came in 1856, James and Walter Magee being their sons. Harold Magee and Mrs. Mildred Magee Drometer, are local descendants. Beside the three daughters the Wrights had a son, John Wright, who was the father of Mrs. Addie Salzman. Her brother, Arthur Wright, lived in Cannon Falls for a long time, raising two daughters and two sons, here. J. H. Wright built the house on the west side long owned by James Filson, though it was lived in for years by different members of the Wright family.

Coming at the same time as the Wrights was a man always referred to formally as E. N. Sumner. His name appears as a judge of election with the names of Alonzo Dibble and Andrus Durand. His parents had given him the Biblical name of Ebenezer, which means "stone of help" but his seven brothers called him Eben. He settled in Cherry Valley or the Oxford community and built substantial buildings.

He was a religious man and the early day circuit riders of the Methodist church always found a welcome there where the neighbors would be called in and services held. One of these young ministers was Rev. William McKinley who eventually became one of the family by marrying Amy Sumner. Though William McKinley seems never to have lived here, a sister married William Williamson, a neighbor of the Sumners and spent the rest of her life here. He was

an uncle of Alexander McKinley, father of Mary, Fred and John McKinley. He became one of the well known Methodist ministers of the state. His brother George, was killed in the first battle of Bull Run, July 1861. When the Civil war ended and the local veterans formed their Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post, they named it George McKinley Post, in his memory. Though there are no records, he must have lived here.

Another circuit rider who often stayed with the Sumners was Edward Eggleston, who, using his experiences in his home state, Indiana, wrote "The Hoosier School Master" and "The Hoosier School Boy" the former being translated into several foreign languages. He also wrote "The Mystery of Metropolisville" which contained stories of his experiences as a circuit rider, around here and over near Faribault where he lived.

To go back to the Sumner story, E. N. lived here for about twenty-five years and then sold his farm to his brother, Royal, and moved on to Oregon with some of his family. One son, Ira, was a photographer in Northfield and Cannon Falls, living in Northfield the remainder of his life. The members of the Sumner family who have lived here for years are descendants of Royal Sumner.

A large number of people settled in Warsaw township in 1855, coming from Canada and western New York. Mr. Clark, in his history of the time, mentions Peter, Michael and Shedrick Crump, Harvey and James Swarts, Frederick Sheets, Washington, Russell, Dexter and Amos King. Justus Stedman, and James Mills came about '56 or '57. Speaking of this community Mr. Clark said, "these people were in part related to one another at the time of their arrival in these parts and those who were not at once proceeded to get into the bonds of relationship by inter-marrying as long as the girls held out." Mr. Clark was more than a spectator as he must have been up there on High Prairie, courting Mary Wright, himself, and would have been able to tell who married whom, without looking up family records. If your name is Crump, Sheets, Swarts, Mills, Stedman or King, you probably are of Cannon Falls community pioneer stock.

In 1854 Harrison Miller married Harriet Ellis in their native Vermont and came to Wisconsin to live. Three years later his brother Jonathan came to Minnesota territory and settled at Stanton. Without doubt, at his brother's suggestion, Harrison Miller came over from Wisconsin that same fall and purchased a tract of land from William Stanton. Both men prospered, Jonathan being a raiser of fine sheep. In the sixties Harrison Miller built a fourteen room house on the present highway 19 in which his grandson Claude Whitson and his wife have lived since 1928 and in which he lived earlier, with his parents, John H. and Cora Miller Whitson. For a time Nelson Miller farmed his father's land, later buying the George Gould farm across the road, where he lived the remainder of his life. Jonathan Miller started to build a house of the same architecture as his brother's but it burned before it was finished. This was on the road leading east from Stanton and east of highway 56.

In 1855 Mr. and Mrs. James McCorkell came to Warsaw township, later to Stanton township. Soon afterwards Mrs. McCorkell's brother, Robert Goudy, came to this country and lived with them. Mr. McCorkell was killed in 1861 by jumping from a wagon and be-

ing run over. On the same day a baby was born which she named James for his father. Mrs. Clarence Pagel is a great-granddaughter. The Goudys in and around Cannon Falls are the sons and grandchildren of Francis Goudy who came here in 1860.

The late Frank Kleeberger's parents Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kleeberger came to Stanton township in 1857. Mrs. Silas Mills is a granddaughter.

Though the panic of 1857 had begun, three men came that year who spent the rest of their lives here. They were all from Cattaraugus county, New York, and they met at Buffalo, in order to take the same boat. Mr. and Mrs. James D. Wheat came because Mrs. Wheat's sister, Mrs. William Tanner, was here and her brother, William Colvill, was in Red Wing. With them was their little five-year old daughter. A son, James, was born and raised on the farm across from the Charles Smith farm, where Mr. and Mrs. Ray Black now live. Later he and his family moved to Arizona for his wife's health. His widowed mother went with them and died there about fifty years ago.



An early view of the Village showing the business district.

B. H. Van Campen was with the group and with him were his wife and three children, George, who died, still a young man; Henry, who was a merchant in Cannon Falls for perhaps fifty years, and Hattie, who became Mrs. J. C. Applegate. The large house east of the Wille Clothing store was the B. H. Van Campen residence, where Mr. Van Campen died in 1888 and his wife in 1902. The large house across

the street to the north was the Henry Van Campen home, where Ben, Harry, George, Merle and Viola Van Campen grew up. Ben is the only one living here. With the Van Campens, to assist Mrs. Van Campen, was a widow, Mrs. Hatrick. Later she married George Bremer, who came here about the same time, and became the mother of the late Leslie Bremer, George of California and Edward Bremer of Cannon Falls.

The third family in the party consisted of Foster D. Barlow, his wife, Ann Elizabeth Steel Barlow, and their two-year-old son, Allen. Before the year was over the little boy died and is buried in the Cannon Falls cemetery. Two more sons were born to them, Fred and Frank, the latter marrying and spending his life here. He had two sons, Foster and Russell, and a daughter, Marie, whose son, Allen Barlow Anderson, is the only grandchild. Mrs. Frank Barlow is the only one of the family living here.

After the death of Mrs. Barlow, Mr. Barlow married Miss Minnie Reynolds, a teacher in the public school.

This concludes the list of settlers who came here up to 1858. Some have been omitted but will be mentioned later in other accounts of the times. Some may have been inadvertently omitted and if so may be mentioned later.

Early Trails, Stages and Hotels

When the Sioux Indians, in 1851, relinquished their rights to practically all of the land in Southern Minnesota, much of this area was inaccessible to settlers for there were no railroads and no highways. To remedy this situation, the territorial government laid out as soon as possible, a number of roads in various parts of the region. These roads were scarcely more than rough trails but they did make available to the homeseekers rich land in the interior of the territory. The tide of immigration began, and settlements sprang up almost overnight along these routes of travel.

Cannon Falls, one of these early villages, was located on the most important of these roads, the one which ran from Dubuque, Iowa, to St. Paul, which had been surveyed in 1853. Roy Dunlap, of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, a few years ago, in an article describing his adventures in trying to retrace the path of this early trail, says:

"Less than one hundred years ago this route was the most traveled in the new territory. The iron-bound wheels of ten thousand wagons scarred its path through the forested hills and valleys of Southern Minnesota. It was the state's first practical overland artery for commerce and immigration. Unable to afford steamboat passage for their families and cattle, thousands of land-seekers jammed the territorial road with wagon trains five miles long."

Cannon Falls was one of the favorite stopping places for these immigrant trains. On almost any day, the camping grounds were crowded with covered wagons, livestock, and travelers preparing food over open fires. These transients came from the East by way

of Red Wing or from the south by way of Rochester over the St. Paul-Dubuque road.

It may be of interest to mention here that this latter road, in the fifties, followed much the same route as State Highway 52 does today. At that time, the hill on the south edge of town was high and, as was usual with early trails, the road circled this hill, coming into the village somewhere near the site of the George Dalton residence of today. According to some of the older residents, the trail then meandered northeast to a ford below where the lower bridge now stands. Leaving the village, it took a northwesterly course, passed the Charles Smith farm, now the home of the Ray Black family, and then wended its way to Hampton and on to St. Paul.

No doubt, this was the ford most generally used, but there were a number of other ones in common use also, which should be mentioned. Not many years ago there were traces of a trail which crossed Paradise Plain in a northwesterly direction to a fordable place in the Big Cannon somewhere near the spot known for many years to the younger generation as "Mannings' Rocks." Mrs. J. D. Wheat, sister of William Colvill and an early settler, in a letter published in the Beacon of May 1, 1903, speaks of a ford near the Luther Scofield home. The Scofield log house stood just east of the entrance to the fair grounds, so it seems probable that the families living north of the river crossed not far below the Goodhue mill, although it is possible that they forded a little farther down the river. In Riverside park, a road leading down to the water's edge is still very clearly marked, suggesting that the ford at that place was one much traveled. The Little Cannon was forded somewhat south of the present bridge.

Several of the pioneers have spoken of the early construction of pontoon bridges on both rivers. One of those on the Big Cannon was probably not far below the site of what was formerly the Goodhue mill and now the Searles feed mill, and a second one below the present lower bridge. One spanned the Little Cannon river about half way between the present bridge and the dike. The road east of the Howard Duncan residence, which led down onto the flat, where the athletic field now lies, was the approach to the west end of this bridge. None of these pontoon bridges were practical for they were constantly being washed away when the spring breakup occurred.

Mrs. Wheat, in her letter, says, "One of the greatest trials for us who lived on the north side of the Big Cannon was the lack of a permanent bridge. For many years there were none that would stand the spring freshets and the breaking up of the ice. A kind of a ferry was tried, then a pontoon bridge. In winter we had always a safe bridge, and in summer a ford, but for three or four weeks every spring there would be no way we could safely get to town."

The first permanent bridge over the Little Cannon was built of wood. The date of its erection is pretty well established to be 1875. This bridge was replaced by a steel one in 1881, which was superseded by the present concrete one in 1914. While data on the construction of the first bridge over the Big Cannon near the Good-

hue mill was not obtained, it may safely be assumed that it was built about the same time as the above-mentioned one.

The dike was built sometime in the early seventies. During its construction, a fine team of horses belonging to Benjamin Van Campen, Sr., lost its footing, plunged into the river, and drowned.

In the summer of 1854, Charles Parks and his wife arrived in Cannon Falls from Red Wing, Mrs. Parks having the distinction of being the first white woman to live here. Mr. Parks, observing the hundreds of immigrants crowding the roads and camping grounds, and noting the limited accommodations furnished by the small hamlet, decided that a hotel or stopping place in the village was an urgent necessity. That fall he erected a 16x24 foot log building to which he gave the name Falls House. It is interesting to note that it has operated continuously from that day until the present under the same name, the only place of business in town with such a record.



The Falls House as it appeared in 1887.

In April, 1855, Mr. Parks sold the hotel to Andrus Durand, who had been engaged in hotel business in Red Wing. Mr. Durand at once erected another log house, similar to the first one, a few feet south of it. There was a covered passageway between the two, thus making them virtually one building.

That same year a well was drilled on the hotel premises by Elon Pease. This was the first one in the village and also in this part of the county. Mr. Pease used a foot power drill for his work and he was able to drill about four or five feet per day. This well was in daily use for many years.

E. L. Clark gives an interesting description of this early hotel in one of his articles published in the Beacon from which the following is condensed:

"The Falls House was a double, one and a half story log house. The upper part of the north buidng was finished as one room and used as sleeping quarters for male guests. The beds were made upon the floor and twenty or more men were sometimes crowded into this room. The lower part of this building was divided into two parts. One of the rooms was used as a dining room and the other served as an office and lounging room for guests.

"The south building was also divided, above and below. One of the lower rooms was reserved for the family and the other was used for women guests. The upper rooms were fitted out in better manner and were made to serve as sleeping chambers for the more stylish customers."

An addition, which was used as a kitchen, was built a little later on the east of the north building. This part of the Falls House was moved to several different places but finally became the one story wing on the south side of the Coplin house. This is the house now owned by Miss Pearl Clark in which she operates her beauty parlor.

When the village was platted in 1855, it was found that the south part of the hotel stood a number of feet out onto Main street. The records do not say when these log houses were moved but accounts state that a two-story frame house, 30x40 feet, was erected in the fall of 1856.

In the spring of 1858, the hotel was sold to Edward J. Turner, who rented it to Benjamin Van Campen, Sr., for several years. David S. Davis took over its management in 1871, having purchased it in 1866. In 1872 he built an addition, 14x22 feet, to the hotel, this completing the frame building which survived the fire of 1887. In the fall of 1873, Mr. Davis sold to Peter Gravlín who kept the house until 1875 when Mr. Davis again became its proprietor. In 1890, the property came into the hands of Henry Thompson who built, in 1896, the stone portion which is so familiar to all today. Dr. H. H. Bissell assumed the management of the hotel, in connection with his veterinary practice, in 1892, and continued its operation until 1901. The hotel then changed hands several times, before Sever Hommedahl became its proprietor in 1906. The business remained in the Hommedahl family until the fall of 1953 when it was sold to Ray Pagel.

As soon as the Falls House was completed and opened for business, in the fifties, it became headquarters for the M. O. Walker stage and a general stopping place for immigrants coming this way. The Walker stage line, established in 1854, operated on the old St. Paul-Dubuque trail.

During the summer months, travel to and from the Territory was a simple matter. In the winter months, when traffic ceased on the frozen Mississippi river, the only contact with the outside world was by stage coach. These coaches offered little in the way of comfort for their passengers. They were not much more than open wagons with boards nailed across for seats. Quoting Roy Dunlap, "Pioneer travelers enjoyed no spring-filled cushions, no heat, no time-defying speed in their journeys. Indeed, they were lucky not to be tossed bodily out of the coach. It was a boast of Mr. Walker that a passenger could attend divine services in St.

Paul one Sunday and be in a Dubuque church the following Sabbath. This 'comfortable' ride cost the passenger \$20, although several jounced occupants naively wondered if the stage owner didn't feel guilty accepting the money. Later, when the M. O. Walker stage line passed into the hands of J. C. Burbank of St. Paul, swanky Concord coaches with padded seats, windows and roofs, made their appearance and travel was much more comfortable."

The Walker stage also stopped at the James McGinnis house which was sometimes called a hotel for in it lived, from time to time, most of the early arrivals. Mr. McGinnis had built a substantial addition to his cabin in the shape of a second log house, connected with the first one by a covered passageway much after the plan of the Falls House. This provided considerable room for his many guests. During 1855, Mr. McGinnis acted as temporary postmaster for the stage brought mail as well as travelers.

One should mention here a log house which Stephen Hicks built in 1855, one mile west of town, on the Edward Strange claim, which now forms a part of the Wilbur Goudy farm. This cabin was located on the flat opposite the site of the Goudy house. Here Mr. Hicks kept a hotel and also a relay station for the exchange of horses on the M. O. Walker stage line. The location of this hotel and the fact that it was a horse-changing stop on the Dubuque-St. Paul trail would suggest that some fording was done northwest of town.

Sometime during the fifties, Edward Strange erected on his land a spacious dwelling house. In those early years it was considered one of the most pretentious in the locality. Mrs. E. A. Dibble remembers that, for some time this house served as a popular hotel or stopping place on the Cotter stage line from Faribault to Red Wing. Until a few years ago the remains of this building still stood a little to the northwest of the Goudy residence.

Among the arrivals in 1855 was George McKenzie who took a prominent part in the affairs of the early village. He selected a site on the west side of the Little Cannon river for it looked at that time, as if the business portion of the future town would develop there. It is probable that about that time the three store buildings on Paradise Plain were being built. Whatever the reason for his choice, he built the McKenzie House on the corner of Eighth and Main streets, just west of where the band shell now stands. It was a frame building, two stories high, and was regarded by many as the leading hotel in town. There was considerable rivalry between it and the Falls House.

The McKenzie House became the stopping place for the stage running from Red Wing to Faribault on the second territorial trail through Cannon Falls. This second stage coach line was operated by the Louis Cotter Co. It carried the mail and it is interesting to note that this was the first regular mail route through the village. Previously the citizens had received their mail at irregular times. It came by boat to Red Wing and was brought here by anyone coming from that city. The first continuous and regular service began with the establishment of the Cotter stage line, and Mr. McKenzie was the first regularly appointed postmaster in the town. The office was in the hotel. Edward Eggleston, in his

novel, "The Mystery of Metropolisville," the scene of which is laid in Cannon City, near Faribault, gives an excellent picture of the stage drivers of that day.

The McKenzie House was a very popular resort for the early settlers. According to Mr. Clark, "Settlers would come in from the surrounding country, eat their meals, swap stories, discuss the events of the day, and exchange news from their different localities."

The hotel, in later years, was reduced in size and converted into a private dwelling house. It was occupied at different times by the Frank Ellsworth, the Robert Ramage, the Christopher Benway (Benoit) and the John and Thomas Ford families. It is now owned by Rudolph Kapp. For many years it was a landmark.



The Platt House

The Exchange Hotel was built on the corner of Main and Third streets, by Peter Gravlin and Christopher Benway in the fall of 1866. Mr. Benway sold his interest the following spring to Samuel Brown, and the hotel was run by Gravlin and Brown as the New England House. They sold out in 1874, and, in 1875, it came into possession of David Platt and the name became the Platt House. The business remained in the Platt family until about 1895. It then changed hands several times but was finally bought by John Loomis who changed the name to Loomis Hotel. He operated it until 1944 when the property was sold to the Norris Implement Co. and the building was razed to make room for the company's new building.

In its December 12, 1941, issue, the Beacon carried an article concerning a letter from Mrs. Delia Gravlin Belrose of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. In the preceding August there had appeared in a

Los Angeles, California, paper, a notice of the death of George Brindamoor, a famous magician, in which Cannon Falls was given as his birthplace. This had the old timers puzzled until C. A. Rasmussen wrote a letter of inquiry to the widow which was answered by the above named person. She explained that George Brindamoor was her cousin and that he was born in Cannon Falls in 1870 in the New England House, which was run by his father, Samuel Brindamoor, also known as Sam Brown, and her father, the late Peter Gravlin.

Mr. Brindamoor's niece, Miss Etta May Tessier, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, in a letter to Mr. Rasmussen, mentioned that her uncle was a contemporary and a rival of the famous Houdini. She also spoke of hearing her mother tell of picking wild strawberries near town, "the largest, sweetest and grandest strawberries she ever saw". Mrs. E. A. Dibble remembers these strawberries which grew in such abundance on the prairie in the western part of town. She says that settlers came from miles around, unhitched their teams and spent the day picking the berries, filling a dishpan in a few minutes. These berries sold for five cents a quart "if picked over".

Mr. Gravlin's sister-in-law married a Cannon Falls man, the late Lester Carpenter, who will be remembered by the older residents here. Harry Carpenter is a nephew.

In the fall of 1855, there arrived in Cannon Falls from western New York, a young man by the name of Eli Ellsworth. He was, Mr. Clark says, "an important factor in the commercial development of the village and a prominent figure in the social and religious circles of early days."

The first year Mr. Ellsworth was here he ran a general store in a small log house which had been built on a lot back of where Scofield Bros.' store now stands, there being no other place available. His quarters were so cramped, however, that he found it necessary, that first winter, to store about \$2,000 worth of supplies out-of-doors. To the credit of the early inhabitants, nothing was molested.

The difficulties of doing business under these conditions, however, induced him, in 1856, to erect a two-story frame store building, 70x60 feet, on the north side of Mill street, with the family home, a spacious dwelling, joining it on the east. Lester Bancroft, in his reminiscences published in the Beacon, of March 6, 1903, says, "It was the only building of boards in the city at the time, logs entering principally into the construction of the other few mansions scattered about." The site of these buildings is now occupied by the National Food Store, Lindahl's Tire and Repair shop, Nick's Cafe, Cannon Falls Produce and the old creamery now used by the Lampert Lumber Co.

In these roomy quarters, Mr. Ellsworth continued to do business for fifteen years, when he sold to F. D. Barlow and W. P. Tanner. It is believed that, at this time, the residence was converted into a hotel under the name of Ellsworth House. The name of the first proprietor to be mentioned in the Beacon was that of O. A. Millard, who, in 1884, sold to F. F. Taber of Zumbrota, an experienced hotel keeper. The Ellsworth House was a popular place for social affairs and a favorite resort for the young people

of the village. These buildings were all destroyed in the fire of 1887.



The Ellsworth House

Before closing this chapter on the early hotels one should mention that, in the fifties, a large stone hotel building was commenced on the present site of St. Ansgar's church. This was never completed and, as the walls began to crumble, the stone was hauled away and used for other purposes. The location of this hotel would lead one to think that there must have been considerable travel over the lower ford in those days, and that there was, at the time, some expectation of the business section developing in that locality.

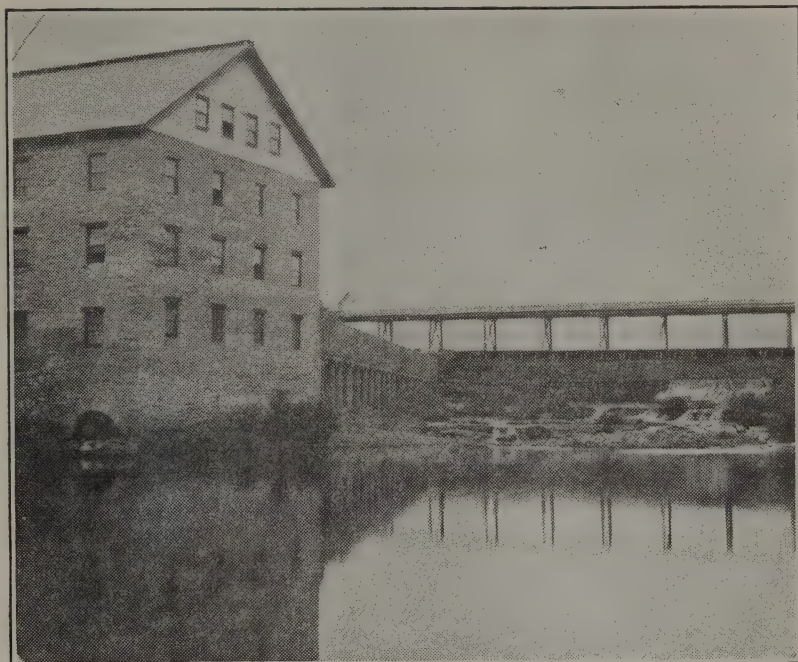
A later chapter will tell something of other early buildings which are of historic interest.

The Mills of Cannon Falls

Perhaps no industry was more instrumental in the existence of the City of Cannon Falls than that of milling flour. The story of the mills began when the first white men viewed the falls of the Little Cannon River. They envisioned the power of that swift water running the millstone to grind the wheat and make the flour. From those visions the industry of the city grew to prominence in our state and went on to win national recognition for quality and method. In the year 1876 the flour manufactured in Cannon Falls won first premium at the Centennial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was within these mills that the reputation of Minnesota as a flour state took form.

The combined efforts of the mills of Cannon Falls in the year 1879 could grind over 3,000 bushels of wheat daily, and employed about 160 men. The industry flourished and then as more efficient and cheaper sources of power were devised it diminished until that 16th day of December, 1949, when the era ended. The industry that conceived and nurtured the city; the industry that made "Vanity Fair," "Climax," "Mona", "Telephone", "Paragon", "Oxford Brand",

and "Cannon Brand" common household words was no longer in operation. The men with the flour dust on their overalls disappeared from the streets of Cannon Falls. The cooper, the miller, the tester and all the others are now a fading memory. The mills of Cannon Falls are no more.



Old Stone Mill

The Little Cannon Mill or Old Stone Mill was built in 1856 and 1857 by Freeborn, Daniels, and Moss. It was 50x70 feet and 4 stories high. The falls were 26 feet. As the mill was completed the panic of 1857 touched the area and the builders could not muster enough capital to begin the operation. Thus the building stood vacant until 1862. In that year it was put to use as a woolen mill and that business continued until 1868 when it was again left unoccupied. In 1875 the building was purchased by Captain Edward Murphy. He installed four run of stone and the grinding capacity was 600 bushels of wheat daily. In 1880 the business was sold to Smith and Thompson of Hastings. In 1915 they sold to W. F. Weinke and he in turn sold it to George Hosmer who operated it until 1926. Two other names associated with the Old Mill are Paul Rothe and W. B. Davidson who managed the industry at varied times. After the abandonment of the business the building stood until 1935 or 1936 when it was decided that it was a dangerous nuisance and was therefore dismantled.

It should be mentioned that the dam also furnished the power for the carding mill of Sherman Hale located on the west bank of the river.



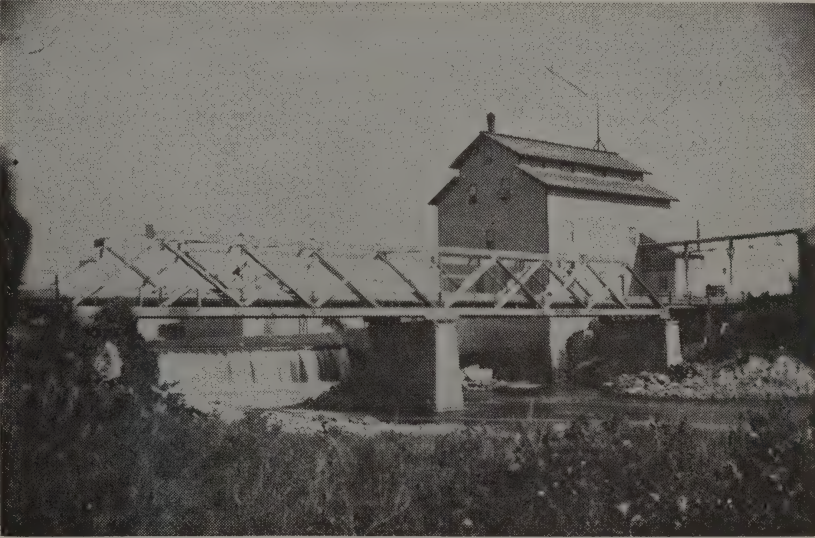
The R. H. Knox Mill



The Phoenix Mill

The Cannon Falls City Mill, also called the Knox Mill after its original builder and still later known as the Phoenix Roller Mill was located about a quarter of a mile east of the junction of the Little and the Big Cannon rivers in the east part of the village. The original mill was built in 1867. This building was destroyed by a flood in the spring of 1867. That same summer Mrs. Cornelia Grusuener put up a new building 50x60 and 4 stories high. The dam was 8 feet high and the water ran 8 water wheels. The capacity of this mill was 1,000 bushels of wheat per day. They also built two large warehouses and the mill employed 40 men. This mill was purchased by W. B. Davidson in 1893. On April 8, 1894, the building was completely

destroyed by fire. That same year a new structure 46x50 and 4 stories high was erected. This new mill was called the Phoenix Roller Mill. Before the machinery was installed Mr. Davidson held a public dance which the entire community attended. This mill was partly washed away and the remainder torn down. The dam was also taken out.



Original Goodhue Mill

The Goodhue Mill or Cannon Valley Mill is located on the Big Cannon River about one-half mile west of the junction of the Little and Big Cannon rivers. It was built in 1873 by Steven Gardner and Charles Moore at a cost of \$22,000, and named the Goodhue Mill in honor of Mrs. Moore, whose maiden name was Goodhue. The original building was 45x65 feet and 4 stories high. There were 8 run of stone and the grinding capacity was 1,000 bushels of wheat daily. The dam was 12 feet high. There was a warehouse, barrel house, bran house, and cooperage. Forty-three men were employed.

In 1892 Otto Doebler purchased the mill. He developed it into a roller mill and boosted the capacity to 500 barrels of flour per day. In 1909 the mill was sold to the Cannon Valley Milling Company. Capacity was increased to 800 barrels per day.

On July 28, 1914, the mill was completely destroyed by fire. It was immediately rebuilt and operation commenced again on January 1, 1915. The new structure was 50x100 and 6 stories high. The capacity was 1,500 barrels of flour per day and 45 men were employed. In 1915 the payroll was \$50,000.

In 1930 H. W. Bovey purchased the mill. He increased the capacity to 1650 barrels of flour and 60 tons of feed daily. In 1946 the mill operated 300 days of that year on a 24 hour basis. The payroll increased to \$150,000 in the year 1948.

The mill closed on December 16, 1949—a sad day for Cannon Falls.



Airplane View of the River and Goodhue Mill

The Oxford Mill was located in Section 25 on the Little Cannon river about three miles south of Cannon Falls. It was built in 1867 by Archibald and Wilcox and production began the same year. The mill was 30x70 and four stories high. It had four run of stone.



First Oxford Mill

In 1878 Mr. Wilcox built a stone structure on the northwest side of the river across from the first mill. This structure was of stone and was 44x56 and four stories high. The machinery from the old mill was installed in the new structure. The capacity was about 400

bushels of wheat per day. The remains of this mill stand today. The interior was gutted by fire but the walls are still in good condition even though the elements over the long years have gained almost complete control.



The Oxford Stone Mill



The Sorghum Mill

Early Industries and Business Houses

The early industries and business establishments of Cannon Falls developed to meet the immediate needs of the first settlers. There were many of these needs.

The first stores to be opened here were general stores to take care of the numerous demands of a household. Of these the first one was operated by Prescott Giles on the corner north of the Episcopal church, where Mr. and Mrs. Alex Lindenfelser now live. He built a board shanty. It was one story high and stood well back of the spot where the house now stands. It was set back for the reason that it was expected to erect a better building nearer the street later on. Later Mr. Giles constructed a good sized cellar in front of his shanty. He built no house over this cellar but simply roofed it over with boards that served to shelter the interior from the elements. Into this cellar he moved his family and stock of goods. This surely was not the most acceptable of living places but it seemed to serve at any rate. This was probably the first basement house built in Cannon Falls. Mr. Giles lived in his cellar about a year and a half, when he moved away. Our interest in him follows from the fact that he was the first storekeeper in Cannon Falls.



This picture is of the Giles Slocum store on the West Side.

In 1855 Eli Ellsworth opened his store in the log cabin which stood on the back of the lots which are now occupied by Scofield Bros. drug store. This building had been erected a short time before by Richard Elton. It was the first store to be erected on Fourth street, our present business street. The following year Mr. Ellsworth built and moved into his commodious store on the north side of Mill street.

Very early John Slocum erected a general store on Paradise Plains, on the point where the Charlson home now stands. Later this building was razed and the lumber used for buildings on his farm west of town. In 1856 Giles Slocum, brother of John Slocum, and Archie Knox built a store west of the Little Cannon river, on Hoff-

man and Fifth streets. This building was later converted into a dwelling house. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Larson.

The influx of settlers in the 50's called for a variety of industries. A saw mill was built in 1855 on the west side of the Little Cannon river and was operated for several years by a number of the early settlers, William P. Scofield being the first manager. A small dam was built across the Little Cannon river on a line at right angles with the west end of the present bridge. The dam was what is called a brush dam, it being built of hewn lumber, stone and brush. The mill supplied lumber for the first houses and many public buildings. Eventually the sawmill became the property of Daniels, Moss and Co.

Good building stone was abundant in this locality and quarrying it was a flourishing business in pioneer days. The burning of lime by Hugh Montgomery has been mentioned in an earlier chapter. The erection of so many pioneer homes gave employment to numerous carpenters and stone masons who located here. Among the early carpenters who built dwellings still standing in our city may be mentioned the four Doners, Abe, Samuel, Chris and Jerome; Stephen Hicks, erroneously called James; Oscar Stranahan, J. M. Lane, August Saul, J. H. Scott, Lester Bancroft, and his son, Samuel. Warren Clark was the first stone mason and plasterer in Cannon Falls. Others were Lester Bancroft, Conrad Weaver, Gust Oberg and G. P. Johnson, known as Stone Johnson. Mr. Johnson in later years built the Congregational church and many other of the stone structures in our town.



Blacksmith shop of Alfred Johnson, father of Carl Johnson. This building was torn down to make way for the present Lee Chevrolet building. In the picture from left to right are Otto A. Vernstrom, Giles Slocum, Oke Peterson, John Swanson, and Alfred Johnson, all blacksmiths.

In those early days there were no automobiles and no railroads in town. For transportation the settlers were dependent on horses and oxen. This called for dealers in commodities and services which

are unknown today. There were numerous blacksmith shops, harness and saddle shops, wagon and carriage businesses. Among the blacksmith shops was one owned by David Knox which was located on the flat, now the Athletic field, south of Howard Duncan's residence. Another was a shop located on the corner where the Van Campen building was recently razed. This shop was owned by Dick Moore, better known as "Nate and Tasty Dick"—as according to him every job he turned out was "Nate and Tasty." Later this shop was torn down to make room for the building just razed. This latter building was occupied by Carlson and Tellander, blacksmiths. Edward Strange had a blacksmith and repair shop which was located on Main street, just west of the Congregational church. Other blacksmiths and horseshoers were Henry Stone, located on Fourth street; P. C. Johnson, Lee and Shannon, Alfred Johnson, father of Carl Johnson. In late years these men were followed by John Ritchie and Jimmy Filson.

In early days a paint shop was erected on the flat south of the present Howard Duncan residence, where the Athletic field now stands. After several experiences with floods this shop along with several other buildings was moved to higher ground. It stood for awhile at the west end of the Little Cannon bridge on the left hand side of the street. Later it was moved across the street and converted into a dwelling house which is now the property of Mr. Hougo. Until a few years ago the old foundation from which it was moved still remained.



Main Street looking West

In writing of early industries and business houses it has seemed fitting to publish this article from the Cannon Falls Beacon. It was published in the Beacon of February 27, 1920, just 40 years after Mr. Lewis became its publisher.

When the Editor Came to Town A Few Remembrances of 40 Years Ago

It is now just 40 years since the present owner and editor of the Beacon arrived in Cannon Falls and commenced work on the paper by buying a half interest from the then owner, the late O. T. Jones. Forty years seems to be a long time for those who have not lived it but not so long, perhaps, to those who have.

A few reminiscences, while not out of place, will probably be interesting only to those who remain in town and vicinity, who were here forty years ago. In those days Cannon Falls had no train service and shipments to and from town were made to Hastings or Northfield, and a daily stage brought all mail from Red Wing.

Soon after daybreak on a February morning in 1880 we arrived in Northfield on a train from Rock Falls, Iowa. It was clear and cold but very little snow lay upon the ground and wagons were in use. There was no stage route to Cannon Falls and we had to decide between hiring a livery or taking a morning walk. But what in those days was a walk over a good hard frozen road to a youngster of 30. It was too easy to cause debate and we at once resolved to hike it. That you remember, was before the people became effeminate and enervated by the advent of the bicycle and the automobile. But as we were loyal to the mode of travel in those days we will not be disloyal to the modes of today. Bring out the car.

The air was crisp and bracing and we hiked along at a fair pace and about 7:30 reached William Goudy's store at Stanton. Besides Mr. Goudy another man who was in the store was engaged in filling his pipe for an after breakfast smoke. We afterward knew this man as James L. Grant, "a bonnie Scot", and enjoyed his acquaintance as long as he labored here below, and Mr. Goudy was also a faithful friend until he, too, passed away. These men were our first acquaintances in the vicinity of Cannon Falls. After partaking of a breakfast of cheese, crackers, and sardines, using the counter as a table, we renewed our course onward and eastward, and soon from the ridge at the George Neff farm, now the Stuart Cook farm, we saw Cannon Falls bathing in rays of a wintry sun.

Soon after arriving in town we repaired to the Exchange Hotel. The late D. Platt was the proprietor of the hostelry and in the "settin" room were a large number of transients and boarders, and with many of them we made lasting friendships or acquaintances. Among others that we met at dinner, or luncheon, as it is now popularly termed, was A. E. Engstrom, then superintendent of the Cannon Falls schools, and for many years afterward county superintendent of schools. At that dinner and after adjournment, the principal conversationalist upon all topics was one Bob Lee. He appeared ready and anxious to begin an argument or combat one if it were advanced by another. If our memory is correct he was a combination of blacksmith, horse trader and elocutionist, and an interesting character withal.

In the afternoon we took a walk through the town with our old friend, Dr. A. T. Conley, and met the business men. Only one man who engaged in business then still continues at his trade, and that is John Swanson, the tailor. A few who were in business then still

remain here but most of them have passed on to another shore. At that time G. A. Ryden was in the clothing and dry goods business, also G. Westman and John Danielson. C. G. Rydell was in the furniture business and likewise John Thoorcell. H. A. Van Campen was selling dry goods, groceries, clothing and also farm machinery. W. J. Hillman and A. F. Radcliffe were photographers, and C. Doner, architect and builder. Tanner and Seager were conducting a meat market as well as S. Hansen. W. T. Tanner was actively engaged at the First National Bank and vice president of the institution. Eli Ellsworth was connected with the Bank of Cannon Falls. The legal profession was represented by Charles Parks and J. T. Graves. C. Wold was the jeweler and McKenzie Bros. house, sign and carriage painters. A millinery store was conducted by Mrs. Parks. The medical profession was represented by Dr. A. T. Conley, Dr. J. H. Sandberg, Dr. A. P. Woodward and Dr. Irwin. A. L. Clifford and A. O. Sather were also engaged in the general merchandise business. The blacksmiths and wagon-makers were Lee and Shannon, P. C. Johnson and Aug. Carlson. O. J. Hawkins was in the harness business, Post and Hagg, Westman and Bolling were shoemakers.



The D. E. Yale and A. L. Clifford Stores before the 1887 Fire

The hardware business was represented by D. E. Yale and J. J. Hanson. There were two drug stores, one operated by Scofield Bros. and the other by Dr. Sandberg. The Cannon Valley Iron Works were owned and operated by the Bacon Bros. and James Elder was a driller of wells and dealer in windmills. B. A. Freeberg was running a feed and planing mill and C. O. Bye was engaged at his tannery. The "old stone mill" was owned and operated by Thompson and Smith of Hastings and the Goodhue Mill by Gardner and Espencheid of Hastings. At that time the Lower Mill, owned by Gregg and Vose, was also in active operation. Wheat rolled into town from all directions in those days and the milk wagon was unthought of.

This by no means is all there was of the business of Cannon Falls at that time. But a man naturally forgets many things that happened forty years ago. If Sam Bancroft was here he could tell us lots more but Sam is in Red Wing just now and this will have to go as it is. Ed Hartery helped us to a large extent. Sometime, maybe, we will make the story more complete, but probably not in the closing days of another forty years.



The Old Cheese Factory

The first newspaper published in Cannon Falls was the Cannon Falls Gazette, in 1856, by R. W. Hamilton, who was also an attorney here. Mr. Hamilton owned the paper for about 15 months when he sold to Mr. Hatch, who in one year sold to Hoag Bros. For luck they changed its name and styled it the Cannon Falls Bulletin. At the end of one year the paper was moved to Northfield. Cannon Falls was without a newspaper until 1874, when Mr. Bromwich started a paper called the Echo, which continued to echo for about one year.

Two years later, on August 4, 1876, John A. Leonard published the first issue of the Cannon Falls Beacon. It has been published continuously on Friday of each week since that date.

In less than a year, July 6, 1877, he sold the paper to O. T. Jones and C. A. Cook. On April 5, 1878, Mr. Jones bought Mr. Cook's share of the business and on May 27, 1878, he sold a half interest to L. C. McKenney, who retired from the business in a short time. In February, 1880, S. S. Lewis bought a half interest in the paper from Mr. Jones and a year later in January, 1881, bought Mr. Jones' share of the paper. Mr. Lewis continued to publish the paper until the summer of 1902 when he sold it to Jac Brynildsen. In December, 1903, Mr. Brynildsen sold the Beacon to J. C. Applegate.

On April 20, 1914, Mr. Lewis repurchased the Beacon from Mr. Applegate and since that time it has been in the Lewis family. L. G. Erickson bought a half interest in the paper in October, 1924 and continued as a partner until 1942. The present publishers are Loretta L. Lewis and George E. Dalton. Miss Lewis is a daughter of S. S. Lewis and Mr. Dalton, a grandson.

Cannon Falls Schools

In the fall of 1854, Charles Parks had the forethought to start building a hotel which proved to be a good idea. A year later E. L. Clark came up with a good idea, too. He'd build a school and teach it himself! He had, no doubt, interviewed the parents in the matter and found it would be worth his time and labor. Trees had to be cut and hauled to the sawmill and the lumber moved to the site he had chosen near where Mrs. Kate Lang's house stands. It was January first and cold, when he and two other men were ready to go to work. Placing a stove on the ground they erected their building around it. It was sixteen by twenty-four feet, made with the boards placed upright and battened and it was sealed with lumber inside. Just one week later thirty-one children, twenty boys and eleven girls were present on opening day. Forty-two years later Mr. Clark remembered all their names and something about their later lives.

The lumber used being basswood, a local wit named it Basswood Seminary a name never forgotten. It was Cannon Falls' first public meeting place and as such did duty for church services, lyceums, spelling bees and anything else that called the residents together.

It was probably here that they met and established district number eleven. First, though, it must be told that others held private schools, some of them after the district was formed so they probably were summer schools. One of them was financed by B. H. Van Campen. He probably hired a teacher for his own children and admitted others.



This was the first public school in Cannon Falls. Built in 1857 it was enlarged in 1875 and 1880. Later it was used as a cheese factory.

Mr. Clark was quoted as saying that seven bachelors got together to form the school district. This was probably the kind of a joke that is funny because of being a part truth. At any rate, by 1857 they had a school house erected on Hoffman street next to where the City Hall now stands. The building was 28x38 feet and two

stories high with what was about a four-foot wide stairway leading up from the front hall.

In 1898 Mrs. Susie Clark Ellsworth wrote a list of the pupils who attended the school in 1870. She gave Miss Minnie Reynolds as the teacher who later became Mrs. Foster Barlow. Later it was customary to have a man as principal and teacher of the grammar school but there is no record of that this time, unless a Mr. Coe who has been mentioned, was there at that time.

In the early seventies it is known that three girls from pioneer families were teachers. They were Mary Hillman, Ida Mallett and Mary Curran.

In 1875 it was necessary to double this building in size and to build a one-room school on the North side. Two years later this was made into a two-room school, which reflects the prosperity of the Goodhue mill.

In 1877, G. A. Follett was principal and his reports showed that there were 181 pupils in the schools, 40 in the primary, 60 in the first intermediate, 42 in the second intermediate and 39 in the grammar school. Twenty-five years later they still referred to departments rather than grades. At this time the principal must have been teaching some high school subjects as the first graduation was only three years away. That year, The Beacon, which had only been published for a year, gave the first record of school board members, newly elected being W. H. Scofield, C. A. Moore and Wm. P. Tanner. Teachers beside Mr. Follett were Cora Scofield, primary; Mary Curran, second intermediate and on the North side, Cleora Oakes and Susie Clark, all home girls.

In June, 1878, A. E. Engstrom was elected principal. He had just graduated from Carleton College and the editor of The Beacon commented, "Those who know him best speak very highly of him both as a scholar and a gentleman", an estimate the whole town, as well as the county, held during the short twenty years more that he lived.

The women teachers at this time and for some time to come secured their positions after passing examinations given by an examining committee from the local board of education.

The school census increased and the year 1880 saw the first class graduate and an addition built into the east side of the South side school building.

The graduates were Minnie Clifford, valedictorian, and Mamie Allyn, salutatorian. Minnie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Clifford and became the wife of Dr. William Morell, who was one of the pupils in Mrs. Ellsworth's 1870 list of pupils. Dr. and Mrs. Morell lived most of their life at Verndale, Minnesota, where they are buried. Mrs. Olaf Lilleboe is their daughter. Mamie Allyn was the daughter of William Allyn who was a member of the school board at the time and a sister of Belle Allyn who taught on the North side about then. Mamie became the wife of W. H. England of Chicago and is no doubt long since dead.

Mr. Engstrom purchased that spring fifty diplomas which cost \$15.00 and according to the alumni must have been sufficient up to the year 1899. There were just fifty graduates up to that time.

One of the duties of any school board in this northern climate, is to see that fuel is provided. In March, 1881, the local board purchased 35 cords of body-oak wood for \$3.00 a cord and Gust Oberg sawed and piled it in the woodshed for thirty cents a cord. After that the janitor had to carry it around the building to the front door and carry some of it upstairs. This is by way of contrast with modern methods of heating.



This is a picture of the first unit of the present school plant. It was built in 1893 and by 1898 began to be inadequate.

In September, 1882, C. W. Blake was elected superintendent, following the resignation of A. E. Engstrom, who had been elected County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held for the rest of his life.

In June, 1882, the board hired E. K. Cheadle, who was superintendent until 1890 when O. C. Gross became head of the school for two years. These two were bachelors when they came but went away married men, Mr. Cheadle marrying Ida Wohlfahrt and Hattie Parker graduating from high school in 1893 as Hattie Gross.

The school report for 1890 showed there were 338 pupils, an average of over fifty per room.

At the annual school meeting in April, 1892, the board proposed setting aside money for a site for a new school building and it was voted down. That fall it was necessary to rent a room uptown and move the grammar department into it for the year. That fact and much talk by the proponents finally won a majority approval of setting aside \$750.00 for a lot and for the sale of bonds to the amount of \$15,000.00. This was in March, 1893.

Plans were rushed and in a month or two the basement was dug and basement walls were going up. By October the board asked the carpenters to have the finishing done by December 1st, but it was some time during the month that the high school room was ready and the rest of the departments moved in, in January 1894.

The school board at the time was made up of the following men: W. H. Scofield, President; P. S. Aslakson, clerk; C. B. Johnson, treasurer; J. K. Wheat, P. N. Allen and Dr. H. E. Conley. They are mentioned because they worked long and faithfully, giving hours and days of their time. For this reason, the death of W. H. Scofield, from pneumonia, in February 1894, seemed especially tragic to the community. In spite of his having to use a crutch and a cane, caused by a knee injury in boyhood he visited the building every day and sometimes more often.

Professor Gross had left in June and A. M. Locker had taken his place. Commenting on the joy of moving into the new building, he said, in school notes in the Beacon that they were all so elated and pleased with everything that they had difficulty settling down to work. He had spent the fall months in the old building and felt the difference himself.

Think of the joy of walking on even floors after walking on warped floors that had lain so close to the ground for forty years, plaster walls painted a light green and wood work varnished and shining in place of dingy wooden walls and wood work to look at! The seats were old but revarnished and seemed like new. No running water or plumbing but few if any had such luxuries at home. The old water pail and dipper were gone and in its place a five gallon insulated tank with a faucet and small cups. No more sanitary perhaps, but at least they did not stand open to the dust. No group of Cannon Falls pupils since has encountered such a change, when they moved into a new unit.

This brought an end to the North Side school also, though the board had been petitioned not to close it, wanting to keep the little children nearer home. It was subsequently used as an extra fire bell and the bell given to the school in 1877 by Stephen Gardner, one of the mill owners, became a fire bell. The South Side school bell, purchased in the 1880's for \$40.00 was moved up to the new building and placed on a frame work about 10 or 15 feet high, south of the school house, as no belfry had been provided and a school without a bell was unheard of.

The northwest room upstairs had been fitted out with new seats for the 28 high school students. By 1897 that had become the 7th grade room and Mr. Locker and his assistant Miss Mary Lothrop were teaching the high school students in the two east rooms. By 1898 there were 55 in the high school and it was still growing so in the summer of 1899 the partitions in the east rooms were moved to make a large assembly room and a small recitation room. Mr. C. O. Swanson was hired as mathematics and science teacher and the former 8th grade room on the southwest was given over to him.

Mr. Locker left in the spring of 1899 and was succeeded in turn by A. C. Carlson, H. I. Harter, A. W. Newman, S. M. Pinney and R. Geiser, who was elected in February 1910 to take the place of Mr. Pinney who resigned.

This ten years saw a gradual increase in the enrollment and need for more room for new departments. After four or five years' agitation,

contracts were let in the spring of 1910 for a stone building to join the 1893 building, on the east.



The Second Unit Is Added

Again the board should be mentioned: C. W. Gress, was president; P. N. Allen, treasurer; Samuel Kraft, Dr. A. T. Conley, T. R. Johnson, and P. S. Aslakson, clerk, who for the second time in 17 years began the time-consuming task of writing letters, and minutes and attending extra meetings. He had been elected clerk in the spring of 1893 and held the office continuously until 1913 when he was succeeded by Thore R. Johnson, the first Cannon Falls High School Alumnus to become a board member. P. N. Allen, Martha Allen's father had been elected to the board in 1892 and chosen treasurer in 1913, a position he held until 1928. Something of a eulogy is due a number of men who served long and faithfully on the school board. Both Drs. A. T. and H. E. Conley, brothers, were elected more than once and continued on the board, perhaps 25 or 30 years apiece, once being on the board at the same time. Other well known names are W. P. Tanner, F. D. Barlow, Chas. Parks, D. E. Yale, A. L. Clifford, J. L. Scofield, S. S. Lewis, P. A. Peterson and W. E. Poe. Samuel Kraft is the only man now living who was a board member during the first fifty years of the Cannon Falls Schools.

To go back to the building of the east building, it was finished in 1912 but not until money had been levied for a heating plant, the proposed sum not being sufficient.

The building of school plants can be likened to the buying of a coat for a growing child. The board has always been held down to buying a "coat" for the present size of the "child" without being able to consider that the "child" would outgrow it. The East unit seems to have been an exception as it fulfilled the need as to size until the gymnasium was built.

The expansion of the school plant since 1912 would make a long and interesting story but this must be confined to the first half century.

Our Churches

A little Goodhue county history published about 1869 states that the first religious services held in the new community were conducted by a Baptist minister, Rev. T. R. Cressy. According to E. L. Clark's account it was held at the James Hicks stopping place west of town and was attended largely by travelers. Rev. Charles Curran settled northwest of town in 1855 and soon after held an open air service under a large tree, north of the R. P. Yale home. This was probably the first religious service held in town.

By 1856 a group of New Englanders of the new community, led by Rev. J. R. Barnes decided it was time to form a church. They met in Mr. Clark's little school house and the 31st of July they organized the first church in Cannon Falls with Rev. R. Hall, a representative of the Congregational Church, preaching the sermon and assisting Mr. Barnes in the organization. All of the charter members joined by letter. In the democratic way brought to this country by the Pilgrims from which the Congregational church descended, the husbands and wives were registered individually and a woman was elected the first church clerk. This is the roll: Jeremiah R. Barnes, Caroline Webster Barnes, Julia Barnes (their daughter), Charles and Jane Gellett, Joseph and Mary Peckham, Jonathan and Susan Clifford, Sidney Monson and Mrs. H. J. Monson, Levi and Mary Hillman, Joseph and Hannah Chapman, Sherman Hale, Mrs. Paxton and Luther Scofield. The first officers were J. L. Clifford and Sherman Hale, deacons; Luther Scofield, treasurer and Mrs. Mary Peckham, clerk.



Congregational Church Built in 1867

Some of these names were not mentioned in the history of the rest of the pioneers so it might be well to introduce them briefly.

A few rods east of the Northern States Power dam, on the south bank of the river is a spring. Its volume is dissipated now by spreading over the rock ledge below the ground and coming out in small rivulets but when the first settlers came here it was concentrated into one gushing stream. It was not far from the Charles Parks home but was known as Paxton's Spring. J. Wilson Paxton's name appears on mortgage deeds which probably means that he had money. Not much else is known of him but he is of interest here as the Mrs. Paxton on the church roll was his mother. Another name on the list is connected with the big spring. Sherman Hale used the spring to turn machinery for carding wool and it was also known as Hale's Power. Mr. and Mrs. Hale had come here that year from Maine. Apparently Mrs. Hale joined the Methodist Church.

Mrs. Gellett and Mrs. Peckham were sisters and both couples lived in the house that Charles Gellett built, owned now for a long time by Wm. Golden, Sr. Joseph Peckham was a minister but there is no record of his choice of denomination. In 1857 he represented the district in the territorial legislature and introduced the bill founding the Winona Normal, the first in the state. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman lived on a farm southwest of town. It was their daughter Rebecca, who married Alonzo Dibble. Later they became Episcopalians. Nothing is known about the Monsons.

After the public school building was built, meetings were held there until in 1867 a frame church was built on the west side, 35x43, at a cost of \$3,000, a large sum for those times. About 1906 the congregation began to talk of a new church and when it became a reality the old church was sold and turned into a dwelling where it stood. This is the house on the southwest corner of Hoffman and 6th streets, now owned by Mrs. Ed. Nelson.

Ground was purchased on the corner of Main and Third streets and a building of native stone was erected being dedicated in December, 1908. This is the present church with a membership of something over 225, not counting children.

Historians say that the Cannon Falls Methodist Church was founded in 1856 but no records are available concerning it. It was 1878 before a church was built. Placed first on the lot where Ed. Sauer's house now stands it was later moved to the northeast corner of Main and Third streets and the house to the north purchased as a parsonage. This had been built by Dr. J. E. Tibbets, Cannon Falls' first doctor. For many years the congregation flourished. Later they had the misfortune to lose so many of their group, either by death or removal that in 1917 they were obliged to disband, most of the remaining members joining the Congregational church. The church was torn down and the parsonage moved to south Fourth street and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Asa Van Guilder now.

In the early days Methodist Circuit Riders held services at various points in Stanton township as has been related before and services were often held in Wm. Stanton's home for the settlers along Prairie Creek. It was not until 1874 that they built a church in the community. It was 28x44 feet and faced on what is now Highway 56. Later it was moved directly west, and faced north, directly across Highway 19, from the cemetery and placed on a full base-

ment. The church is now in a flourishing condition, serving as a center of social as well as religious life for the Stanton community. The minister always also serves the Randolph church, being considered one charge by the Methodist Conference.



Methodist Church

At about the same time the Methodists in the southeastern part of the township built a church near the Oxford mill, completing it in 1873. Rev. Ezra Tucker served both this and the Stanton church, at that time. About 1916 it was moved a few rods to the north, placed on a basement with a roomy addition built to the south. For a number of years it was the center of community life and was served as part of the Stanton-Randolph charge, but for some time now there have been no services and the building is going into disrepair and will no doubt soon be taken over by the Methodist Conference.

In 1884 a group of Methodists on the North Side, built a church in which the German language was preached. Later the members joined the Methodist church on the South Side and the church building was torn down.

It seemed suitable to tell of the Methodist churches of the community as one story so now this history must go back in time to November, 1857. Rev. Timothy Wilcoxson, a pioneer Episcopalian minister of Hastings heard that there were some communicants of his church in the little community of Cannon Falls and with true Christian zeal, felt he must do something for them. Any sort of conveyance being rare at that time he walked all the way, which at that time meant going to Hampton on the Hastings-Faribault trail and to Cannon Falls on the St. Paul-Dubuque trail.

Arriving here he found that Mrs. W. P. Tanner, her sister, Mrs. J. D. Wheat, and their aunt, Miss Hannah Love and Mrs. A. E. West were members of the Episcopalian denomination. Mr. West was connected with the milling industry and built the large square house now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Lindahl. After Mr. West's

death Mrs. West and her daughters remained here until some time in the nineties.

After holding a service in the Tanner home that November day in 1857, Rev. Mr. Wilcoxson continued to hold services until 1865. The next year the church was organized by law and called the Church of the Redeemer. As the congregation grew the need of a church edifice became apparent and in February, 1866, it was decided to build a stone church and June 28th the corner stone was laid by Bishop Whipple and consecrated by him May 1st, 1867. This was the first church building in Cannon Falls, predating the Congregational Church by eight months. The church still has a devoted, if not large group of workers.



Episcopal Church, first church erected in Cannon Falls, 1866

In the first years of the settlement of this area the Catholic people, most of whom were Irish, were ministered to by a priest appointed for the whole county, and services were held in private homes. The first formal organization was in 1864 when five men placed their names on the roll, and a church was built. It was a trim edifice of native stone, 25x40 feet and Archbishop Ireland was present to lay the corner stone. It was completed in 1866 and Reverend Pius Beyer celebrated the first mass. Thirty years later Archbishop Ireland came to lay the corner stone for the present stone structure coming again to preach the consecration sermon in February, 1896.



Catholic Church

The first resident pastor assigned to the church was Rev. Francis McDermott in 1905. Soon thereafter the old stone church was torn down and on its site a fine residence was built for him and for future priests. Recent extensive repairs and improvements inside and out, find the edifice in excellent condition.

Sixty years old now, it stands facing busy Federal highway 52, dignified without and hallowed within, an invitation to travelers who need its sanctuary and a "sacred home" to its own parishioners.

In the year 1878 a small group of people founded the Calvary Covenant Church and built a small church at a cost of \$543.00 after which they called their first minister, Rev. Boquist, who served until 1882. Credit is given to the following people for the early support of the church: Gustaf Larson, G. Bolling, F. Fogelquist, Gust Oberg, August Peters, D. E. Lilly, Mrs. Gust Olson, Mrs. O. Nelson, John M. Johnson and Gust Wolander. About 1926 the church was closed but was opened in 1935 as a home missions project by the Mission Covenant church.

Something about the life and work of Rev. Eric Norelius seems a fitting introduction to the history of the Lutheran churches of the area. He had received his college degree in America and was pastor of several churches in Indiana when he came on a missionary trip to the Swedish people of Minnesota Territory. Getting off from a steam boat at Red Wing, at 12 o'clock at night, Aug. 31, 1855, he found a poor lodging place where he slept little on account of the mosquitoes. Nevertheless, in the next three days he preached four sermons and organized the Vasa Lutheran Church on Monday morning and the Red Wing church that evening. Able in the course of a

few hours to bring two gatherings of people, ready though they were to the point of organization, shows his capability as a bearer of the Message and his dispatch in carrying out the organization shows his great executive ability. Much can be learned of him between the lines of his own narrative. Not averse to telling a joke on himself and able to relate amusing incidents relative to the hardships of pioneer life, he must have been an approachable, understanding man, one to win the affection of his people.

Called in the spring of 1856 when he was only 23 years of age to minister to the 87 men, women, and children enrolled in the new church of Vasa he began a long life of service and prodigious labor. He organized a number of other Lutheran churches, at the same time building the Vasa church into a large organization. They built their first church in 1862, and in 1869 they erected the present fine building.

Besides his spiritual labors, Dr. Norelius left many material evidences of his labors. He founded the Orphan's Home at Vasa, a school which became Gustavus Adolphus College, two periodicals and wrote numerous books.

In January, 1903, Dr. Norelius was knighted by King Oscar of Sweden and Norway and named a Knight of the North Star Order. When Prince Gustave Adolph was on a tour of the United States in 1926, he was commissioned by his father, King Gustaf V, to place a wreath on the grave of the man who for 62 years had called Vasa his home and who had been buried in the churchyard of his church. He had honored Sweden, his homeland, by his accomplishments and was honored in return.



The Crown Prince of Sweden Visits Cannon Falls

Next year the Vasa Lutheran Church will celebrate their one hundredth anniversary, the first church in the area to do so.

By 1857 much of the farming land between Red Wing and Cannon Falls was taken up by Swedish people. The young Vasa pastor in his tireless efforts for the people from his homeland, offered to assist in the establishment of a Lutheran church in the Cannon Falls vicinity. The first meeting was held in the home of Andrew Swanson which was where the Goodhue mill later stood. Present at this meeting were Andrew Swanson, Nels Hawkinson, Gustaf Anderson, A. P. Johnson, Andrew Lindstrom, C. F. Johnson, Magnus Nelson, John Peterson, Jacob Anderson, Magnus Lundell, August Peterson, Swan Nelson, Gustaf Johnson, Olaf Ostberg, Jon Johnson and Jonas Engberg.

They made immediate plans to build a church but it was never completed though a start was made. In 1862, however, they built a small church 20x36 in section III, Cannon Falls township, about three miles from town and north of the river, the larger number of families living in that locality. In 1878 the present church was erected on section I of the township. It is 36x60 feet and was built at a cost of \$6,000.00.

Of the men who met that day so long ago most have left no descendants. George S. Johnson and Fred M. Brage are the only descendants of C. F. Johnson who live in the Cannon Falls area. The descendants of John Peterson, who later called himself Peters, were named when his story as a territorial pioneer was given.

The only other man to leave a family heeded the Bible injunction to "be fruitful and multiply". When the descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Lundell responded to a call for a family reunion two or three years ago over 200 men, women and children repoded. Nineteen grandsons and granddaughters live in this area and many of them are grandparents. This is the list which also means that they and their descendants belong to the Pioneer families. Mrs. Chas. Wederstrom, Mrs. Hjalmar Beckman, Mrs. Axel Fredrickson, Mrs. Fred Wenz, Mrs. Nannie Edstrom, Mrs. Sigfred Carlson, Mrs. Hildegard Anderson and Misses Minnie and Stella Lundell, Reuben and Arvid Molstrom are grandsons as are Rutherford, Myron, Herbert, Lawrence, Quinton, Irwin, Carl and Clarence Lundell. None of this large family live in the Cannon River locality.

In 1858 the pioneers who had begun settling in Leon township in 1854 and others who came later, gathered at the home of Peter Johnson in section 15, to organize a Swedish Lutheran Church. Rev. P. Beckman was present to assist them and continued as their pastor for some time. Present were twelve family men and nine single men who with the families formed quite a congregation. They chose Magnus Edstrom, John P. Johnson and Peter Johnson, deacons and Jacob Johnson, Nils Chalberg and S. Anderson trustees. For a time they held their services in private homes or school houses but in 1862 they were able to build a small church. Fourteen years later they erected their present commodious church. Just when it received the very suitable rural sounding name "Spring Garden" no historian has put into print; it has come to fit the beautiful countryside, perfectly. Last year, July, 1953, they celebrated ninety-five years of labor and progress as an organized church. For seventy-

seven years they have been gathering there in times of happiness and times of sorrow, for regular services and for conventions and other meetings until it is truly their church "home."

The congregation has taken seriously the development of the physical welfare of their church as well as the spiritual and many additions and improvements have been made all through the years.

When that Swedish Lutheran Church was organized in Cannon Falls in 1857, it was first planned to include the town people. The country people, however, were far in the majority and the church, (Cannon River) was built to be near the largest number of Swedish people. Soon, however, the number of Swedish people in the village had increased until a church of their own seemed imperative.

Gathering at the school house on August 15, 1869, with Rev. P. A. Sederstam and Rev. Eric Norelius to lead them they organized St. Ansgar's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Sixteen men registered for themselves and their families. The list was headed by Gustavus Westman, who came to Cannon Falls in 1857 at the age of 29, engaging in the general merchandise business. He appears to be the first Swedish business man to make his presence felt in town. He further distinguished himself by winning a seat in the State Legislature in 1876. He left no descendants. Of the sixteen charter members only four or five left families who still live in the community. Gustaf Wederstrom's family is represented by Mrs. Amanda Soderquist, Charles Wederstrom and Mrs. Ida Benson, each with children and grandchildren. A. W. Carlson has two sons and two daughters living east of town. They are Fritz and Sidney Carlson and the Misses Hannah and Hulda Carlson. Edgar R. Anderson is a grandson of Magnus Anderson. Manley and Fred Widholm and Mrs. Frances Widholm Von Wald are grandchildren of Swen Widholm. John Widholm was the grandfather of Hjalmar Moline and Mrs. Axel Gustafson. There are undoubtedly more members of the families of charter members but the list in this short history must be held to heads of families of the community.

Meetings of this group were held in the school house until the present church was built in 1872. A large vestibule was built in 1874 supporting a belfry and a long spire. The young people's organization of the church shouldered the responsibility of raising funds for a bell, about this time. Many businessmen outside of the church gave to the fund with the understanding that it was to be a community bell. Taking this very seriously the sexton went to the depot to get the correct central standard time by wire from the observatory at Carleton College and rang the bell at exactly six o'clock every night. This was done for two or three years when it was limited to Saturday nights, which fine custom is still carried out. It is a fine bell which cost in the neighborhood of \$500.00 and has kept the true temper and tone for eighty years.

In 1871 the Norwegians of Leon township, felt that there were enough of their own countrymen in what is known as the Sogn community to have a church of their own. Up to this time they had belonged to the Holden congregation. The pastor Rev. B. J. Muus assisted them in organizing and was their first pastor. At this time there were 296 men, women and children enrolled. A fine church building was completed and dedicated in 1874 under the direction of Rognald

Ohnstad, Ed. L. Otterness and A. A. Flom, building committee. Such a care is always delegated to responsible men and in this case they were well chosen.

The story of Rognald Ohnstad's early arrival in Leon township was told in the Pioneer Chapter and it is most appropriate to relate something about Arthur Flom, one of the most distinguished men ever to live in that community. Coming to America in 1858, when he was twenty years of age he settled with his parents in Holden township. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the 2nd Minnesota Sharpshooters, an organization which was eventually joined to the 1st Minn. Regiment. He was one of two men in his company to survive the Battle of Gettysburg. After the war he went to Norway and aided in the emigration of many of his countrymen to this country.

In 1868 he married and settled on the farm north of Sogn which has been the property of the family since that time. He was elected justice of the peace in 1870 which office he held for years. In 1872 he was elected to the Minnesota State Legislature by a flattering majority, evidence of the esteem in which he was always held. Ed. L. Otterness, of the building committee was the father of Ben Otterness of Cannon Falls and Lawrence Otterness of the Sogn community.

Like the other congregations the people of Urland take pride in their church and keep it in fine condition. It serves as a social center for the people of the community.

Again a neighborhood church seemed advisable and a group from the Urland church living in the Oxford area, organized, on the ninth of January, 1901 and the next year a church was built in a very beautiful setting, part way down a widening valley in Warsaw township, and called Wangen Prairie, for the level land above. The first officers were John Lilleskow, Hans Loven and John P. Wangen trustees, with Oliver Frettem as secretary and Mr. Lilleskow, treasurer.

In September 1951 the church celebrates their fiftieth anniversary with appropriate ceremonies.

At the request of local people Rev. J. A. Leas of Red Wing and Rev. M. E. Boulton of Goodhue held Lutheran services in the English language in Cannon Falls, during 1899. By April of 1900 the people who had been attending these services seemed ready to organize and in May, at a meeting in A. O. U. W. hall, where they had been holding church services, nine men signed the roll and the following officers were elected; Secretary P. S. Aslakson, Treasurer B. R. Johnson, deacons S. J. Edlund, O. L. Benson and A. J. Ullevig, trustees L. J. Backlund, N. A. Winslow and A. E. Gilbertson. In May 1905 a church erected at a cost of \$2500.00 was dedicated. This is the present English Lutheran Church which has been enlarged and improved through the years. After only fifty years there are, of course, a number of the charter member families still in the church.

Wangen Prairie church seemed a logical successor to the Urland church in the writing of this history so was placed before the English Lutheran Church though it was established a year later.

The reader has by this time discovered that no attempt has been made to enumerate the pastors. This would involve more research than the voluntary writers could possibly do and should not have been at-

tempted unless each church was visited and the full lists obtained. That and numerous other things must be left to individual church histories. Every effort has been made to give correct information only hoping that copied sources were correct, as they some times are not. At least, this summary of the history of the churches should bring a realization of what our churches should mean to us and a justifiable pride in them. Practically every one of the existent churches has a dwelling for their clergymen and suitable church parlors or chapels for those social gatherings which are part of church life.

Historic Houses

There are a few of the early buildings in Cannon Falls which are of more than ordinary interest. Among these is one which was known for many years as "The Beehive."

Some of our residents will remember this old frame building which stood on the corner of Sixth and Hoffman streets, about where Warren Davis' filling station was located.

It was built by William Thomas, one of the first settlers, in 1857, on the corner of Tenth and Hoffman streets, on Paradise Plain, where Myron Bethke's house now stands. It was an imposing structure, 22 by 40 feet, which was to be used for a store. Mr. Thomas never occupied the building however, nor was it ever used for the purpose for which it was constructed. After two of Mr. Thomas' sons died from wounds received in the Civil war, and his son-in-law was killed, the entire family moved to Kansas.



"The Beehive"

During the fifties, a private school was conducted in the upper rooms by a Mrs. Munson and others. The first floor was used for political meetings, concerts, debating societies and the like. A book containing the minutes of a debating society which met in these quarters is now in the keeping of the Goodhue County Historical So-

ciety at Red Wing.

Mrs. Caroline Barnes Hillman in her recollections of early days in Cannon Falls which were published in the Beacon of March 18, 1932, tells of a play, "Widow Bedott", which the young people put on, as she says, "in a new building upon the hill, west of town, called Thomas Hall". There was a full house and everything was going smoothly when suddenly down went the floor into the basement. "Of course," she says, "it caused a commotion and stopped the play. A few were injured and everyone was frightened."

In 1874, the building was moved to the location below the hill and was then occupied by Charles Bromwich who started the newspaper known as the Echo. He occupied it for about one year, and a year after the Echo ceased, John A. Leonard started the Beacon with his office and shop in the same location. After two years the Beacon moved across the river and the building became a sort of a tenement house, and at times it housed so many families that it received the name of "Beehive." This building, our first apartment house, was torn down in 1897.

* * *

Until the spring of 1934, when it was destroyed by fire, there stood, about a mile and a half northwest of town, a spacious and comfortable home of historic interest. The house was built by Joseph Daniels, in 1856, and was purchased by the late Charles Smith, a few years later. The building, which contained twelve rooms, was of stone with walls 26 inches thick. The main building was 40 by 40 feet and it had an addition on the west of 40 feet also.

It was to have been used as a fort during the Indian trouble at the time of the Civil war, and seventy-five Union soldiers were stationed there for a short time, using the dining room, 20 by 15 feet, for sleeping quarters. The possibility of the state D.A.R. acquiring ownership of the house for its historical interest had often been discussed but there were delays and, before action could be taken, the building took fire and was destroyed. For many years the house was a landmark for it could be seen for miles around.



An early picture of the historic Charles Smith residence

About three miles west of town, there stands on the Dibble farm, a short distance northwest of the Dibble home, a quaint stone house nestled close to high hills on the south and west. This house was built in 1858 by Rev. Jeremiah Root Barnes, founder of the First Congregational Church of Cannon Falls, after his family had lived for two years in a log house on the same site. Reverend Barnes, with the help of a hired man, built the new house from stone quarried on the land a short distance up the hill. The family gave it the charming name of Dell Nook.

Mrs. Caroline Barnes Hillman who was ten years old when she came to Minnesota with her parents, in her reminiscences, tells of living in this house as a little girl. She recalls that there was no water on the place the first summer so Reverend Barnes secured a vinegar barrel and had a neighbor haul water from a spring about a mile away on the Big Cannon. This spring has been known by various names, Paxton springs, Big springs, Hale's Power springs, and Carding Mill springs. The water in this barrel soon became warm and tasted of vinegar so, whenever they wished a cool drink, they had to walk a mile to the spring. She remembered a party which her sister Julia gave after the new house was finished. The tables were set in the basement, a spacious room under the whole house with a paved floor of limestone blocks taken from the hill nearby. The party seems to have been one which was long remembered.

Dell Nook had a location which cannot be surpassed for charm. The windows, which Reverend Barnes made rather wide, looked out on beauty in all directions. The ones on the south faced a hillside covered with wild flowers, the one on the north overlooked Mrs. Barnes' flower gardens, and, from the east window, one looked out on a lovely view of the hills, fields and the town in the distance. It must have been a very restful place.

Sometime, after the Barnes family left, the place came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. George Crook. Mrs. E. A. Dibble, their daughter, who lived there as a young girl, remembers it with affection. The house is still standing but is unoccupied.

* * *

Another interesting house which is about one hundred years old is the one which William P. Scofield built in 1855. He took land across the Little Cannon river, west of the McGinnis house. Here he built a sturdy house of stone, the stone work being done by Warren Clark, for whom Clark Valley was named. He was a stone mason and plasterer by trade and was the first workman in this line in Cannon Falls. This was probably the first use which was made of the native limestone. The picture shows a large apple tree north of the house. This was a strawberry crab which William Scofield planted and which lived and bore fruit for as much as seventy years. On the death of William Scofield, the house was occupied by his son, Charles Scofield, later by his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Carpenter, and still later by his grandson, Harry Carpenter. A rather large addition to the house was built some years ago. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Kapp.



The William P. Scofield house built in 1855

* * *

In stagecoach days, the house on the southwest corner of Fourth and Park streets, which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Robertson, was built by a member of the pioneer Murphy family. Here B. F. Clark, grandfather of Mrs. Horace Ellsworth, ran a boarding house and horse-changing stop on the St. Paul-Dubuque road for the Walker stagecoach line. At that time the house was much larger than it is today for it had two wings which were later moved away. One of these wings became the house on the northwest corner of Mill and First streets, the property of the Poe family for many years. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Allen Peter.

* * *

If one travels three miles south on the Rochester road, one comes to the Richard M. Poe farm on which the dwelling house is now almost one hundred years old. The house was built in 1858 by James McGinnis on land which he bought from William Freeborn. Both of these names appear frequently in accounts of pioneer days here. In the sixties, William Freeborn lived in the house with his family. Their home was considered quite elegant in those days for they possessed, among other luxuries, a square piano. They remained here until the late sixties when they left for the West Coast where the family has since resided. This house was an overnight stopping place in pioneer days on the St. Paul-Dubuque trail for it was just half way between Rochester and St. Paul. For the accommodation of the many travelers, a second story room was finished up with a separate stairway. Jonathan Poe, father of the present owner, bought the farm in 1869, and in 1916, it became the home of the Richard M. Poe family who still reside there.

* * *

Among the houses in Cannon Falls which date back to pioneer days one should mention those of Charles Gellett and Sherman Hale,

both of whom came here from Waterville, Maine, in 1856.

Charles Gellett was an old sea captain and he built the house now owned by William Golden, Sr. Here, with Capt. and Mrs. Gellett, lived Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Peckham, Mrs. Gellett and Mrs. Peckham being sisters. There isn't a great deal known about these pioneers but it is evident that they were persons in comfortable circumstances. Mr. Peckham served in the Minnesota legislature in the fifties and the State Historical Society records that he introduced the bill which created the normal school at Winona, the first one west of the Mississippi. This house was sold quite early to Al Leach, one of the early stagecoach drivers here. It was later bought by Jonathan Dibble, father of the late Richard and Dan Dibble.

Sherman Hale built the house just south of the Golden residence, known for some years as the Warren Davis home. Mr. Hale and Mr. Gellett, for a time had an interest in the Cannon Falls Manufacturing Co. which operated a saw mill on the west bank of the Little Cannon river. Mr. Hale's chief interest, however, was a carding mill which he first located at the Big Springs, near where the Northern States Power Co. dam now stands. Mr. Hale was a man of vision and he had dreams of just such use of the water power at that spot but was without resources to develop it. For many years this place was called Hale's Power. Later, when the Cannon Falls Manufacturing Co. was dissolved, Mr. Hale moved his carding mill to the west bank of the Little Cannon river where the saw mill stood. Mr. and Mrs. Hale lived here to see Cannon Falls develop into a thriving village, and are buried in the Cannon Falls cemetery.

* * *

The house on Paradise Plain, belonging to Luther Carlson and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Olson, is one of the older houses on the West Side. According to the records available it was built by Sherman Hale in 1858. At one time it was the property of John Greaves, an early settler here, and for many years it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lockin, who will be remembered by the older residents here. Mrs. Lockin was an aunt of Mrs. E. A. Dibble.

Just west of this house is one which has been known for many years as the Bacon house although it has had many other occupants at different times. It is now the property of Mrs. Fred W. Van Guilder. It has not been possible to learn the name of the person who built the house but it is known to be one of the oldest ones on the West Side.

* * *

Another pioneer house on the West Side is the one which stands just east of Mrs. Nat Goudy's home on Hoffman street, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dale Grote. This was built by David Knox near his blacksmith shop on the flat just south of Howard Duncan's residence, where the athletic field now lies. After an experience with high water, the house was moved up to its present location. During the eighties and nineties, it was the property of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Conley.

* * *

The house on the corner of Third and Main streets, belonging to Pearl Clark, is one of the older ones in town. The land was pre-

empted by William Colvill in 1856 but there is no evidence that he built the house and the records do not show who did do so. It was owned by Eli Wilder in 1876 and Christopher Doner in 1879. Norman Coplin bought it in 1880. Miss Clark says that a few years ago a man stopped and asked if he might take a few pictures of the house, saying that about seventy years before his father had been born there. He did not give his name.

* * *

The Foster Barlow house, just north of Mrs. Frank Barlow's residence, was built in the middle fifties. It remained in the Barlow family for over fifty years.



The F. D. Barlow Residence

* * *

Finally, one more house which should be mentioned is the one belonging to Miss Agnes Swanson, which faces St. Ansgar's Lutheran church and Bridge street. While we have little definite data on this house, we know that it was built at the time that there was much travel over the ford nearby and it looked as if the business part of town were developing in that locality.

* * *

There are, no doubt, other buildings of interest which we might have noted if there had been more time for research.

Reduced To Ashes

Cannon Falls has been visited by two disastrous fires. One of these was on May 21, 1884, and the last one on May 20, 1887.

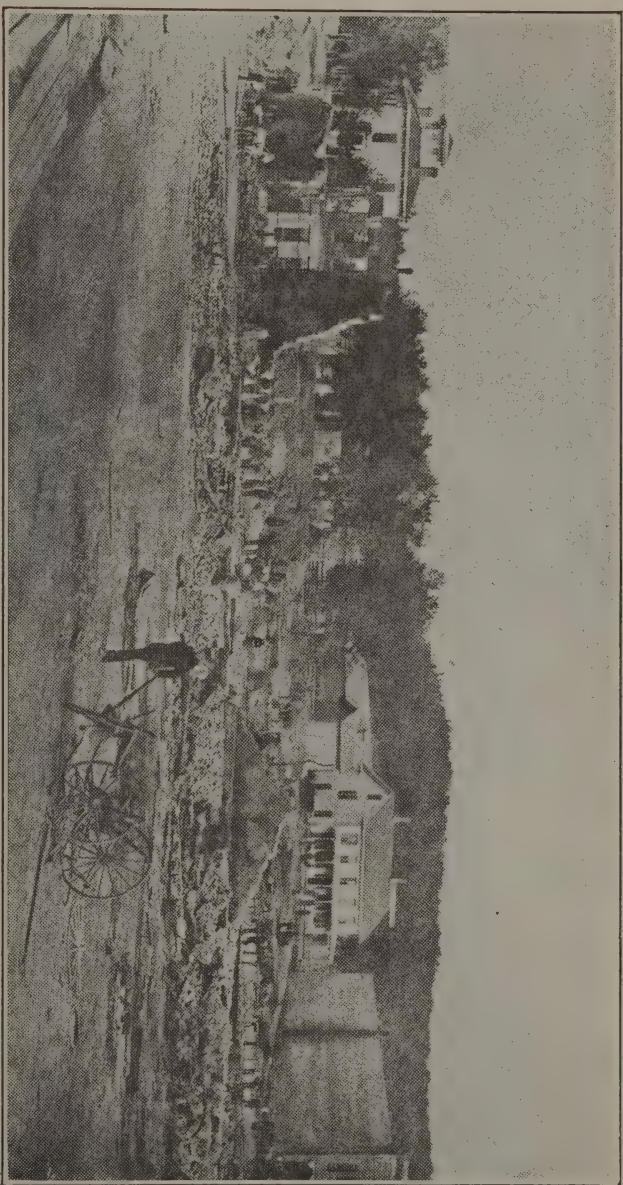
The following articles are reprints of The Beacon of May 23, 1884, and May 27, 1887.

At about 11:30 Wednesday night the citizens of Cannon Falls were aroused by the ringing of the church bell and the cry of fire. The fire started in the upper floor of A. O. Sather's store and was discovered when eating its way through the roof. Men and women thronged to the scene with pails, the only means of quenching the fire, and at once commenced the attempt to check the progress of the flames.

Sather's store was in a short time enveloped in flames. Van Campen Bros.' standing immediately south was, in spite of all human exertions, next to become food for the angry flames. Men worked with the energy of despair but to no purpose; it was soon wrapped in a girdle of fire and shared the fate of the buildings beside it. Van Campen's store stood on the southeast corner of the block and as the wind was blowing from the southeast the progress of the fire southward was checked. Back of A. O. Sather's store stood his warehouse but so near that its escape was made impossible. It speedily caught fire and in a few minutes was reduced to a heap of ruins.

All this time a desperate struggle was going on to save Scofield's Drug store, a stone structure which stood just north of A. O. Sather's. This building proved to be the salvation of all that part of the village which lays west of Fourth and between Mill and Main streets. Had it given away wide spread disaster would have been the result. A ceaseless stream of water was kept pouring upon it and men and women never wearied in carrying water from the mill pond and wells. Several times the wood work around the windows on the end was on fire and every time put out. When it appeared that this building would go, goods in shops and saloons along the street were rolled into the street or to the opposite sidewalk. It is well to state here that a heavy shower fell about 9 o'clock which prevented the cinders from igniting the shingles on buildings in the immediate neighborhood of the conflagration and in other parts of the village.

A large barn which stood within three rods of Sather's warehouse was another dangerous factor, but it was saved. The heat was so intense that the large plate glass front in a saloon across the street was shattered. As stated above the fire originated in Sather's store but how and in what manner is unknown. The store was frame with a brick wall extending along the north side, 65x20, two stories. The warehouse was 32x20, 2½ stories. Van Campen's building was also frame 80x35 feet, two stories. Both stories contained heavy stocks of spring and summer goods. At this writing it is impossible to give an accurate estimate of the losses and cannot be given until the condition of the safes is known. Mr. Sather thinks his loss is not far from \$14,000, partially covered by an insurance of \$8,500. The loss of the McCormick Machine Company for whom Van Campen Bros. were agents is estimated at \$4,000. On stock and building Van Campen Bros. had an insurance of \$10,000 but will not cover the loss by \$10,000. Scofield Bros.



Looking east, probably taken from near the Lampert Lumber Yard

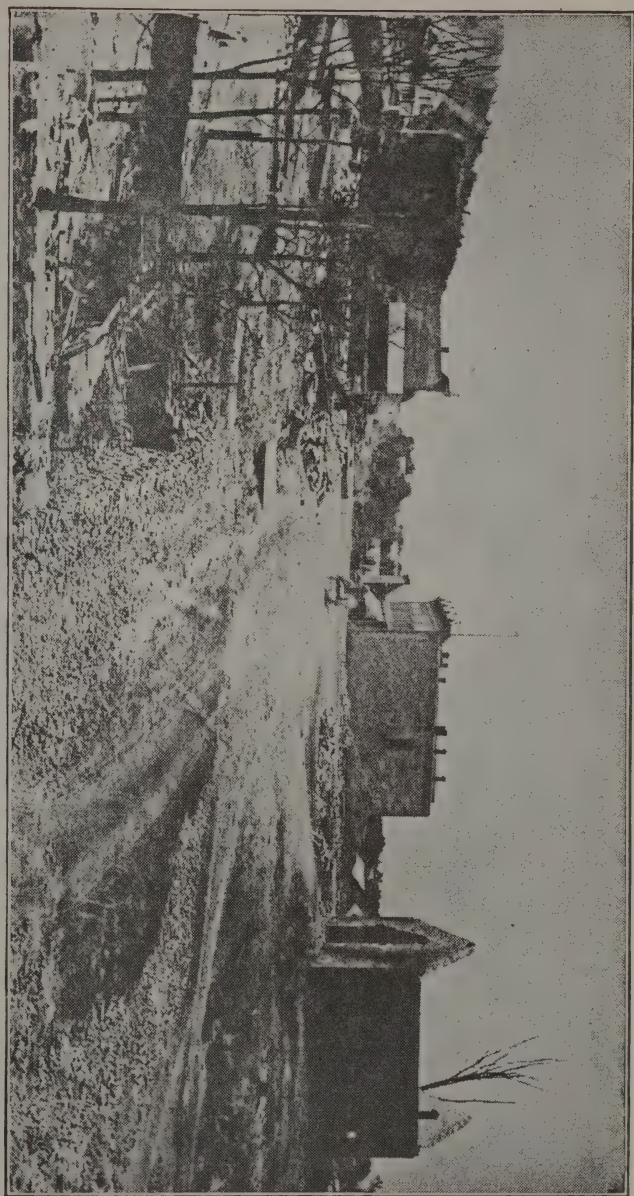
damage is about \$250 or \$300. This hastily written account cannot help but contain inaccuracies in many points but is as near correct as possible under the circumstances. It is the first visitation of the fire fiend to our village and every man did his duty nobly.

Twenty-Seven Business Houses In Ruins — Business District To Be Rebuilt.

At about 10:30 o'clock last Friday night the fire bell aroused our quiet village to the awful fact that a fire was raging at the very point best calculated to bring widespread disaster and ruin, and that we were not in any way prepared with organization or apparatus to retard the march of the fire fiend. The fire originated in the rear of Ben Rodger's saloon, on the second floor in rooms unoccupied. Rodger's building was a two story structure 20x80 feet and was the center of seven wooden buildings between Scofield's and the Estergreen block. These seven buildings were all on fire within twenty to thirty minutes. At first it was hoped the flames could be confined to these, a hope to be soon dashed to the ground for the wind changing a little to southwest (before it had been directly in the south) the flames swept across the street at about the same moment that the Estergreen block took fire. Lidstrand's store, Schurch's harness shop, Bergren's store, the Donner building and Westman and Bolling's shoe shop, all wooden buildings, went as quickly as the same class of buildings on the other side of the street. For a time it was hoped that Clifford's and Yale's fine stone and brick block would be able to stand the storm of fire, but the flames rolling across the street from the burning Estergreen block and a flood of flame from the wooden buildings on the south soon dissipated the hope at about the same time the Ellsworth House and Thoorcell's furniture store on the north side of Mill street together with the Citizens Bank, took fire and Eli Ellsworth's fine residence soon followed. From this on nothing hindered the flames until they had burned Ellsworth's barn and Yale's warehouse on the west side of 4th street and Thoorcell's warehouse, Johnson's photograph gallery, Wold's house and store building on the east side of the same street, and so reaching Hoffman street. Here a strong and successful fight was made to keep the fire from crossing the street to the foundry and machine shops of Hoorn and Chelgren and the public school building. The first two buildings were directly in the line of the fire and had they gone nothing could have saved the school building.

During this time another successful fight was going on, on Mill street west of the Estergreen block. The first building to go west of the Estergreen block was the large warehouse belonging to this firm, the next was Alfred Johnson's large blacksmith shop, and paint shops attached, also a number of barns in the rear of Johnson's shop, and here the fire was checked by keeping Thompson and Smith's cooper shop thoroughly drenched on the east side. Had this shop gone Frank Ellsworth's livery barn must have burned, also the Northwestern Lumber Company's lumber yard (about one-fourth of the yard burned as it was) when nothing could have saved the large flouring mills of Thompson and Smith.

Another successful fight was to save the Falls House, which, while Allen's and Bergren's were burning seemed for a while doubtful. Back of Davis' hotel stood an ice house, and if this took fire the hotel was



Looking south on Fourth Street

doomed and all that row of buildings on Main street, the only street that escaped, would have gone. Everywhere that it seemed possible to check the rolling torrent of fire, men worked with blistering hands and faces, and only retired to another point when all hope was lost.

The fire was discovered at about 10:30 o'clock, and at 12 o'clock 30 buildings — all but three or four business houses — were a smoldering heap of ruins, and \$125,000 worth of property was a smoking heap of debris.

The long drouth had left everything like kindling wood. It was all so sudden, and so soon over that few could realize for hours that our properous little village had met disaster which in proportion to its size was as great as the great Chicago fire. And now after the first shock and gloom has passed away, hope on silvery wings is coming to our rescue and we hope to see many substantial blocks go up this summer.

It is useless to speak in any detail of the fight with the flames. When there was no organized force little could be expected. The only great regret and the only thing to be severely condemned was the want of this very organization and lack of fire apparatus. Had such fire apparatus as a town of this size and enterprise should have had, been at hand there is no doubt that the fire could have been confined to the seven wooden buildings first burned.

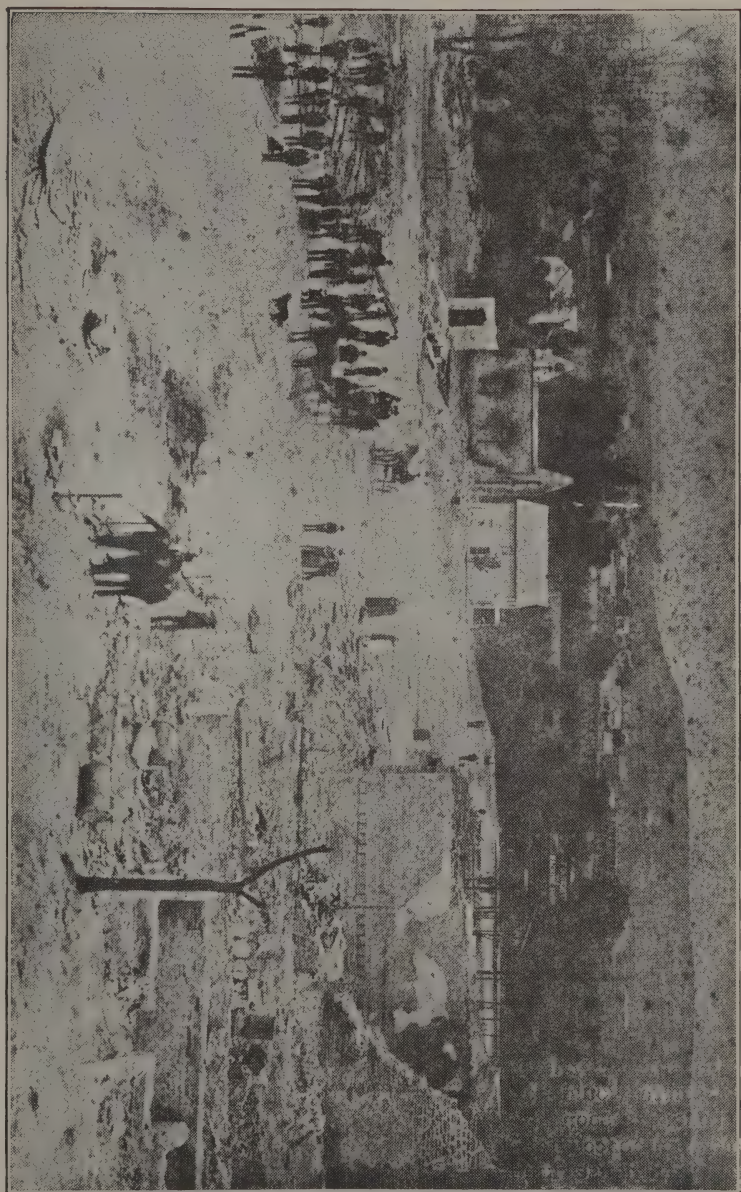
Early in the fire Red Wing and Northfield were wired for help. The Red Wing company were so delayed before they could get permission to use the yard engine, from headquarters, that it was useless to come.

Northfield reponded promptly, but the fire did its work so rapidly that they were too late to save buildings, but they worked hard and faithfully until morning throwing water on the ruins, which no doubt saved many of the contents of safes and also perhaps saved further conflagrations as the wind blew almost a hurricane from the west on Saturday.

We must not forget a word of praise for our ladies who exceeded if possible the men in carrying goods from the burning buildings, carrying water, and everywhere proving themselves heroines and braved the perils of the night with the most unflinching courage and fortitude.

How Cannon Falls Almost Became a River Town

To many the swift waters of the Big Cannon River meant water power and manufacture, but to Ignatius Donnelly that water meant transportation. He spent considerable time in the area and was a frequent speaker at gatherings in Cannon Falls. He had a plan whereby the Minnesota River and the Mississippi River could be joined by use of the Big Cannon. The idea may seem foolish today with our modern modes of travel but in the days of Ignatius Donnelly there was a desperate need of means for transportation. As was the case with so many of the dreams of this man it never became a reality. Perhaps he was years ahead of his time. In any event Cannon Falls never become a river town in the true sense of the word.



Looking north on Fourth Street

Our Railroads

The agitation for a railroad began in the seventies, but it was 1882 before trains were running through Cannon Falls. The Minnesota Central and the Milwaukee started their surveys and started their building about the same time, and it was a race from Northfield between the two roads as to which would reach Cannon Falls first. The depots were to be on the North side. As they neared Cannon Falls the Minnesota Central seemed to be slowing up in their building and the Milwaukee was first in. Then the Minnesota Central changed their plans and made a swing around their first survey, built a bridge and came in on the town side of the river.

The Minnesota Central, always called "Cannon Valley" ran from Red Wing to Waterville and connected there with a line to Albert Lea. The Milwaukee ran from Red Wing to Northfield, connecting the river division with the Iowa and Minnesota divisions, always known as the I. and M. In later years this railroad was bought by the Chicago Great Western.

From the Beacon of Friday, Oct. 13, 1882.

Last Saturday afternoon the Milwaukee track was laid to Dordan's Glen, and on Monday the millers shipped flour from that point. It will take about ten days to complete the work through the "rock cut," east of the glen.



The track near Dordan's Glen

From Beacon files, Friday, Oct. 27, 1882. First train on Milwaukee road enters town. D. M. Turner was first depot agent.

That Excursion

Last Friday morning it began to be noised around Cannon Falls that there would be an excursion from Northfield via the Milwaukee railroad. As soon as this became a certainty, preparations were at once commenced for their reception. A. O. Millard, mine host of the Ellsworth house, kindly tendered the services of the hotel for the accommodations of the visitors.

Every available means of transportation was brought into requisition for conveying them from the train to the hotel, and as early as one o'clock the people commenced gathering on the North side near

the railroad anxiously awaiting the arrival of the first passenger train into Cannon Falls. The crowds increased until about three o'clock, numbering between two and three hundred people.

Wagons, busses, carriages, buggies and every wheeled cart or wheeled vehicle was there for the use of the excursionists. A few minutes after three o'clock, one of the crowd standing on top of the construction train, announced the sight of the excursion train. All eyes were at once turned toward the "rock cut," and as the train came in sight of the patient expectants, we realized that once at least, within the history of Cannon Falls, we were to be favored with a genuine passenger train. We also realized, that the preparations, complete as they were, under the circumstances, were very meager, for such a crowd.

The train was made up of four coaches, four boxcars arranged with seats, one caboose and one "flat," and all filled. Many were obliged to ride on top of the cars, not being able to find seats inside. But, decided to make them as comfortable as possible, the vehicles were filled, and enjoying the refreshing strains of music poured forth by the Northfield Cornet Band, the procession composed of about 1500 persons, slowly wended their way toward the village.

After reaching the south side, the crowd dispersed, enjoying themselves by viewing the town. The band formed in front of Van Campen's store and discoursed some excellent music. The boys presented a fine appearance in their new uniforms and handle their instruments in a manner that would do credit to bands of much larger cities. When an opportunity presents itself, call again, boys.

After walking around town the crowd again gathered in front of the Ellsworth House and were entertained by some excellent music, when it being announced that the train would soon start they began making up loads for the cars. After reaching the cars our Northfield friends heeding the signal "All Aboard," were soon seated for the homeward journey. Three cheers were given by the Cannon Falls people and responded to by the visitors, when the train started and away they went.

The excursion was composed mostly of business men, councilmen and students of Northfield, and we are free to say that it was the jolliest, the best, the largest and the most enjoyable crowd ever seen in our village, and should they ever again visit Cannon Falls, we shall try to provide more substantial entertainment.

In conclusion we would remark that we scarcely know which to thank the most, the officers of the Milwaukee road for their magnanimous offers and the gentlemanly conduct of Superintendent Williams, or the people of Northfield for their expressions of good will and wishes toward the people of Cannon Falls.

Cannon Valley Railroad

The real name of what was called the Cannon Valley railroad was the Minnesota Central. D. W. Waite was the first depot agent. The first train crossed the bridge Tuesday, Nov. 14. At the time of the celebration the railroad was completed only to the bridge.

As soon as the Cannon Valley road was laid into town, last Saturday, preparations were made to have a grand jollification or words

to that effect, and dry goods boxes, oil barrels, cordwood, etc., were collected and hauled to the point where the railroad bridge crosses the river, to make a bonfire. A high wind prevented the lighting of the fire Saturday and it was postponed until Monday night when the thing went off in grand style.



The first railroad bridge crossing the Cannon River

The Cannon Falls artillery was on the grounds and fired salutes with great rapidity. The bonfire was touched off and lit up the whole country in a blaze of glory. It was distinctly seen at Hastings, and the roar of the artillery shook the walls of that antiquated city "from turret to foundation stone."

The church bells rang forth a merry peal, the foundry whistle was let loose, and the boys yelled and hooted and around the fire they scooted, while the whistle gayly tooted, and higher, higher, higher leaped the big bonfire, and louder, louder, louder popped the anvils choked with powder, and on ringing kept the bell, and the boys kept up the yell as if fiends of the air were present everywhere, and the Milwaukee men seeking for a cave or den, crept under sidewalks and belched forth melancholy wailings of despair, "like the sad moaning of November winds in the black midnight."



Cannon Valley Depot

The Telephone Appears

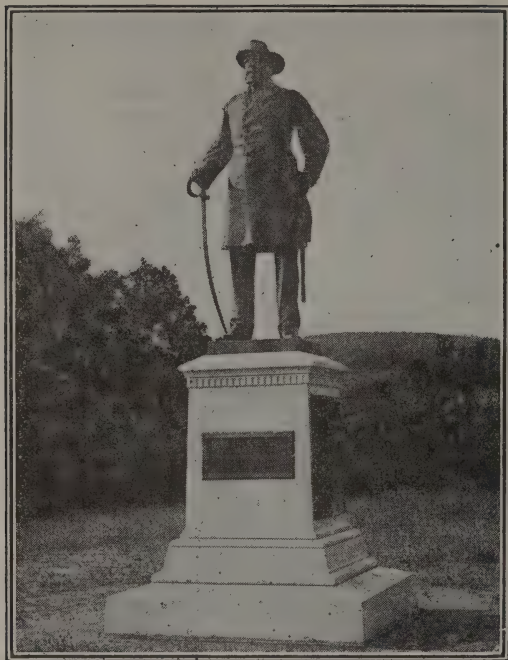
The first telephone instrument in Cannon Falls was probably the one that hung on the wall of the Citizens bank (First National). This was before 1895 and was Cannon Falls' first telephone connection with the outside world.

In 1896 Fred Valentine installed a telephone line between the Little Cannon and Phoenix Mills for W. B. Davidson, who was running both mills at the time. Later other private lines were installed.

In March, 1900, F. W. and C. L. Scofield, with their uncle, J. L. Scofield, and Harrison Slocum as partners, began the construction of a telephone system with a central office over Scofield's store. Service began June 1, with Marian Price (Mrs. R. P. Yale) as operator and members of the Scofield family as relays. By October the service was operating twenty-four hours a day.

At the same time country lines were being built and within a year or two subscribers had free service to White Rock and Wastedo.

In March, 1904, Harrison Slocum sold his share to the Scofields and it remained the property of the Scofield family until 1944 when they sold out to Ed. Miller and John Robertson, who built the present building. In 1946 they sold to the Minnesota Telephone Company.



Colonel William Colvill

On July 19, 1928, on a little hill in the Cannon Falls cemetery a small group of old men dressed in blue uniforms stood at reverent attention in tribute to a former comrade. They were aged and crippled and bent and broken by hardship and the ravages of time. This was the remnant of one of the greatest, most gallant groups of men ever to be assembled. They had come to the dedication of a statue to their leader, Colonel William Colvill. These were the men of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

The President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was there. The Governor was there. There were Congressmen and Senators and many, many hundreds of dignitaries together with a crowd of nearly 20,000 persons. All had come to pay tribute to Colonel Colvill and the immortal First Minnesota.

The history of this regiment begins with the first call by President Lincoln for Volunteers. Fort Sumter was attacked on April 12, 1861, and on April 29, 1861, the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment was mustered in at Fort Snelling. William Colvill had been the first man from Goodhue County to volunteer. He was elected captain of his group and remained their leader until that day at Gettysburg when he was wounded and became partially crippled for life.

William Colvill was born at Forestville, New York, on April 5, 1830. He studied law at Forestville and Buffalo and was admitted to the Bar in 1851. In 1854 he came to Cannon Falls and took a tract of land upon which part of the city now stands. He later went to

Red Wing and opened a law office. It was at this time that the Civil War broke out and he put aside his practice to lead the First Minnesota. Colvill was a giant in stature, almost 5' 6" tall, of commanding appearance with a never-flinching resolution and courage. He was discharged with the rank of Brevet Brigadier General, United States Volunteers. After the war he returned to Red Wing and Cannon Falls and remained here until his death on June 12, 1905. He married Elizabeth Morgan of Trenton, N. Y. They are buried beside each other in the Cannon Falls cemetery.

After being mustered at Fort Snelling, the Regiment was sent to Virginia. With little by way of formal training they immediately were put to action. The Regiment participated in the First Battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, the Second Battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, where the unit under Colvill was nearly annihilated. Perhaps the best account of the battle comes from Lt. William Lochrens who lived through the fateful charge.

June 30, 1863, was a hot, humid day. The companies made out their payrolls and the regiment remained quiet and rested. Little did they realize that so many would never draw that pay. On July 1, the group including the First Minnesota, moved to within three or four miles south of Gettysburg. It was evident that a crucial battle was taking form. July 2 the First Minnesota reached the battlefield. It was not ordered to the line but rather assigned a position on top of a hill just behind the Third Corps commanded by General Sickles. About noon Sickles advanced his men approximately one-half mile through a little valley and up the side of a slight ridge. The 262 men of the First Minnesota moved forward to the point vacated by Sickles, which was also a commanding position. There were no other troops near and the unit stood in full view of the battle in the peach orchard about a quarter mile in front of them. The battle went first one way, then the other for more than an hour. It was apparent that the enemy was massing reinforcements behind their line and the Rebel Commanders Longstreet and Hill were converging their men on the area under attack by Sickles. The enemy pressure increased. Suddenly Sickles' men gave way. They tried to retreat, slowly at first, attempting from time to time to again grasp the initiative, but then at length they fell back in total disorder. They rushed back down the slope they had almost captured, through the little valley and up the slope upon which the First Minnesota waited. The rebels poured troops after them. They reached the low ground in the peach orchard. In a few minutes they would stream up the hill and be behind the Union lines from which they could flank and roll up the entire Union line. Between them and their goal stood 262 men, the First Minnesota. The picture was a pitiful one. The better part of an Army Corp had been beaten by these on-coming rebels. They were flushed with victory and powerful in force. The First Minnesota however, had never deserted a position or retired without orders. They stood fast.

At that moment General Hancock rode up at full speed. He saw the desperate situation. Reserves had been sent for but they could not arrive in time to save the position. He reached the regiment and called out, "What regiment is this?" Colvill replied,

"First Minnesota." "Charge those lines," Hancock commanded. Without hesitation the 262 men started down the hill full into the withering enemy fire. Men dropped on every side. The survivors were now running at full speed. Colonel Colvill was in the center of the group together with the color bearer. They reached the enemy's first line. "Charge," shouted the Colonel. With leveled bayonets they hit the first line. The rebels dropped before the bayonets, slashed and torn. The first line broke and turned. This caused the second line to be stopped in its tracks. Only then did the men of the First Minnesota fire. The rebels fell in disorder. Had they regrouped and attacked again they would have overrun the remnants of Colvill's men. There were only 47 left. The quickness, the desperation, and the forcefulness of the charge stunned and disorganized them temporarily. The 47 men still able to fight took what cover they could find and held the entire rebel force at bay until reinforcements appeared on the hill from which the charge started. The time had been gained. The order carried out to the fullest expectation. But upon the field lay 215 of the 262 men. Almost every officer was dead or wounded, Colonel Colvill among them.



Members of George McKinley Post, G. A. R., at Colvill Memorial Dedication. From left to right, Charles Burggren, C. E. Sherd, Fred Van Guilder, Alex McKinley.

In a letter written some years later Colonel Colvill described the action at the time he was wounded. He first told of the charge being ordered; then continues, "I saw a number of our men lying as they had fallen. Then came a shock like a sledge hammer on my backbone between my shoulders. It turned me partly around and made me 'see stars.' I suppose it was a piece of shell. Just then I perceived Captain Coates, who said, 'Colonel, you are badly hurt.' I said, 'I don't know. Take care of the men.' Just then I was put-

ting my foot on the ground; there was a smart pang through it. It gave way and falling forward to the ground I saw just beside me a gully not more than two feet wide and less in depth.

"As I struck the ground I rolled over into it and listened among other things to the bullets zipping along the ground and thought how fortunate for me was the fact of the gully. I need not describe the rest of it. I saw it grow dark and then it became quiet. I saw the stars shining overhead. Presently I heard voices of our men. The boys were looking up the dead and wounded. I heard some of them talking with the wounded and in one case where their search had found a comrade they were taking his last words for his home and family."

And thus a page of military history was written. The struggle continued and men died. The battle of Gettysburg was won. It is generally thought that this battle was the turning point of the war. If that is true then 262 men may have saved the Federal cause.

On February 5, 1864, the First Minnesota was ordered to return to this state. The regiment came by rail to La Crosse. They journeyed by sleigh up the river to Fort Snelling.

A review was held on April 28, 1864, and the men mustered out. Lt. Col. Charles P. Adams addressed the group and in part said: "Officers and men of the First Regiment: The time has arrived when the organization of this regiment must be broken up. Three years ago you rushed from the peace and tranquillity of your firesides. Then you were 1,000 strong, but stronger in your love of country and devotion to its flag. Your deeds have world renown. The blood of more than 700 of your companions has crimsoned those historic fields and more than 250 of them have passed from the smoke and clangor of battle strife to the eternal bivouac beyond the skies. May a merciful Providence direct you and crown you here with earth's highest honors. But however brilliant may be your future, your proudest boast will ever be, 'I belonged to the First Minnesota.' "

On the small hill the statue still stands. The old cannon commanding the hill has crumbled to ruin. The cannon balls have long since disappeared. The Colonel surveys the peaceful homes and gentle rolling hills before him. The sumac grows thick on the east side of the hill and in the fall it turns the hillside crimson red, like another hillside on another day at Gettysburg.

Captain Martin E. Trench

Captain Martin E. Trench was born near Dennison, November 30, 1869, the son of Thomas and Ellen Hartery Trench. His mother, Mrs. Ellen Hartery Trench, born October 12, 1854, was the first white child born in Cannon Falls.

Captain Trench attended school in Cannon Falls, and was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the Naval academy at Annapolis. He played football at Minnesota and was captain of the 1892 Naval academy team at Annapolis.

He was stationed on the battleship Maine, but was on shore leave at the time the ship was destroyed. He was on the first convoy sent to France in World War I.

Captain Trench was appointed Governor of the Virgin Islands, April, 1925, and served for two years. While still Governor he passed away January 6, 1927, at the age of 58 years.

PLEDGE

OF THE

Town of Cannon Falls

TO HER

Volunteers.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

JOHN A. M. COOPER

War Bond of the Town of Cannon Falls, Goodhue Co. Minnesota.

Be it known, That the TOWN OF CANNON FALLS, in the County of Goodhue, and State of Minnesota, is held and firmly bound to C. H. Goodhue or Barber, in the sum of 600 Dollars, for value received, which said TOWN OF CANNON FALLS, is obligated to pay on or before the 1st day of Nov 1864, with interest on the said sum, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, from date until paid, payable at the office of the Treasurer of said Town of Cannon Falls.

And pursuant to a vote of the legal voters of said Town on the 8th day of August, A. D. 1864, and by authority of the several acts of the Legislature of Minnesota conferring such power.

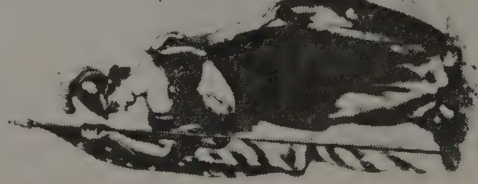
In Testimony Whereof, These presents have been signed by the Chairman of

the Board of Supervisors, and countersigned by the Clerk of said Town, this

10th day of September, A. D. 1864.

Charles Parks Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

John A. M. Cooper Town Clerk



Captain William Duncan

When General Sherman met Captain William Duncan shortly after the Civil War, Sherman said, "Captain, I never expected you would come out of the war alive. I felt sure they would kill you."

This feeling that was entertained by the General was well founded, for during the entire Civil War Captain Duncan moved from one harrowing experience to another as part of his routine. He showed courage almost to the point of heedlessness, and the word caution was unknown to him.

On four occasions he was captured by the rebels and each time managed to escape. At Milledgeville he had only five men in his command but boldly demanded and received the surrender of the city. At Mt. Elon he had 50 men in his unit. They encountered a brigade of the enemy soldiers. Duncan and his men attacked the entire brigade. When the battle ended more than 50 of the enemy lay dead, including one of their leading generals, Brigadier General Aikin. Duncan's unit lost three men. At Fayetteville, Captain Duncan had some under 100 men in his command. They chanced upon about 2,000 rebels under the command of General Hampton. Did Duncan retreat? On the contrary, he attacked the entire 2,000 men and routed them.

Perhaps the event that gained him the name of most daring and successful scout in the southern campaign was the delivery of the message of the arrival of Sherman's army at Savannah to Admiral Dahlgren's fleet. The account which follows was written by Captain Duncan for the Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States:

"Our friends in the North were getting quite anxious about us; the only news they had received since we left Atlanta was through the enemy, and that was neither reliable nor comforting to them.

"When General Howard returned from General Sherman's headquarters with permission to let me go, saying that I might get through, General Howard prepared a dispatch to the Secretary of War announcing our arrival before Savannah. I called for two volunteers from the scouts to accompany me; Myron J. Amick and George W. Quimby went with me. We secured a small dugout on the Savannah Canal and pushed out into the Ogeechee River, depending on the current, and expecting to pass Fort McAllister that night. Our dugout was a very unsteady craft, and we had to sit very still to keep it from rolling over; in fact, I thought at the time that a washtub would have been about as safe, but I don't think that the two men had any more experience on the water than I had, and I did not have any; we knew that people rode in such things, and we ought to. We passed under King's Bridge whose timbers were still burning—it had been fired by the enemy on our approaching Savannah.

"The night was pleasant. The darkies were having a religious meeting; we could hear them very plainly in the stillness of the night, exhorting and singing as we passed the plantations, and, with the exception of the continual dread when anyone moved of having our dugout roll over, we thought that we were getting along very well.

"Along near morning the dugout came near shore; the river was getting very wide, apparently, and not knowing where we were, we stopped at some negro quarters near the river. I woke them up to make some inquiries. They told me the tide was coming in and I could not go any further with this dugout. I also found that I was on McAllister's plantation, and near the Fort. We then, by the advice of this old colored man, decided to hide our dugout and ourselves and remain over until the next night; we would then have the current in our favor, and time to pass Fort McAllister in the dark. A young colored man helped us to hide the dugout. They got us something to eat, and I found that they knew far more about the river and obstructions than we did. I told this young man to be ready to go with us the next night; he declined, and I rather urged it, which was a mistake on my part, as I afterwards learned.

After getting something to eat, this young man piloted us out into the timber; it was very dark, and it seemed as though he had gone a good way. It was quite cold and we started a small fire.

"The two men were soon asleep, and just as day was breaking, the Rebel guard, sent to relieve the picket that had been on duty over night, passed near us on a road leading north from the Fort. After they passed I woke up the men; we put our fire out but did not think best to move from where we were. Soon the picket that had been on duty over night rode back past us toward the Fort, and we remained without being discovered. We had nothing to eat through the day and just before sun went down, Myron J. Amick stole up to the negro quarters to have them prepare something for us; he got there, but could not find any chance to get back to us. The young darky that I had insisted should go with us had left, and the enemy found out in some way that there were Yankees around.

"After waiting for some time, Quimby and myself decided to go and see what had become of Amick; just as we got there, a squad of Confederates started toward the negro quarters, the quarters were nicely whitewashed, and were up from the ground, so that we crawled under them. Amick had a tin pail with something in it from the negroes for us to eat; I never knew what it was, but it was good.

"While under there, the "Rebs" were in the quarters over us, abusing the darkies and talking about the "Yanks." They soon went away, and after awhile, we crawled from under the quarters. The sun was down, but it was not yet very dark. We could see the "Rebs" up at the house, which stood on a beautiful rise of ground. There was an open lawn between McAllister's house and the river, which we had to cross to get to where we had hidden the boat. I asked the old darky where the young man was who was going with us, and then I learned that he had left the quarters rather than take the risk of getting by Fort McAllister with us. They knew more than we did, and I think that they had a superstitious fear of the torpedoes in the river. We, however, crossed the lawn under the eyes of the "Rebs," found our dugout without much trouble, pushed out into the river and started for the sea. We did not go far before we ran onto a boat on the river; we lay down flat in the bottom of the dugout and let it drift by. We soon came to the Fort; they had fires on the banks of the river, and stretched across, was piling anchored in the river, with torpedoes fixed, to prevent our boats

from passing up the river. We lay down flat in the bottom of our dugout, and let it float, not stirring until we were at a safe distance past the fort. We passed along very nicely until after midnight. The river was getting pretty wide, and we began to fear that we might get into the sea and get drowned. We heard a rooster crowing on the left bank, and concluded that we would pull ashore and see if we could not find some darkies who could tell us where we were. This move came very near proving serious; the tide was coming in again, overflowing the lowlands; we were surrounded by water, and concluded that we could not get to that rooster. We started to return to the dugout, but the returning tide had come in between us and the boat, and we wandered about some time before we found it. It was raining very hard by this time, and quite cold. We got into our dugout, and concluded to wait for daylight. We were suffering from cold and wet, and were very sleepy. We then lay down in the dugout, after emptying the water out of it, but the rain and cold were too much for us. The tide had risen so that when we woke up, our boat was afloat, and we nearly capsized, but Quimby's legs reached the ground. We soon got righted up, but there was nothing but water in sight. Our situation at this time did not look very encouraging; we had too much water and not enough boat.

"We heard roosters crowing on the other side of the river, and concluded to go over and try to get where they were. The wind was blowing quite stiff, and it looked very doubtful as to whether we could cross the river at this point. We thought our chances good to perish where we were, so we started. We got across just as day dawned. The tide was going out, and I told the boys to pull back into the river and we would go down to the sea. There was a high point of land near the mouth of the river, and apparently a plantation. We did not dare to trust our dugout any further. We landed, and I tried to make a fire, but the matches were wet and failed us. Amick, who had gone to explore the neighborhood, returned and told us that the plantation was deserted and had been for some time. We were quite despondent by this time, and would have been glad to be captured by anyone. We concluded that it was better to go to sea and trust to Providence than to stay there. We, however, did not realize how near we were to friends, and the glorious old Stars and Stripes. We did not go far before we sighted a vessel stationed in the Ogeechee Sound; they saw us, I think, as soon as we saw them. They lowered a boat and pulled toward us. I looked through my field glass at the vessel, and saw that she carried the Stars and Stripes. When I told the men this, Amick gave a start that nearly upset our dugout.

"An ensign and six men pulled up alongside of us, and we jumped in; Amick gave the dugout a kick, saying, "Goodbye, old friend, we are through with you;" but it was taken up with us, and sent to the Navy Department, to be preserved as a relic of that service.

"We found Captain Williamson, commanding the U. S. Gunboat "Flag," waiting to receive us, and, companions, let me tell you that in our circumstances, it is a glorious privilege to fall into the hands of the marines. The changes from despondency, privations and despair were very sudden.

"Our object was accomplished; surrounded by friends, and with the United States flag floating over us, every comfort was provided

for us. The steam tug "Dandelion" was placed at my disposal; I went to Hilton Head, forwarded General Howard's dispatch to the Secretary of War, met General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren, but could not prevail on them to take us back to our army for two days.

"I was below Fort McAllister just before the fort was taken, and got to General Howard's headquarters after he and General Sherman had retired. The General was glad to see me back, and I can assure you I was glad to get back, and to get my feet on terra firma."

After the war ended Captain Duncan returned to Elgin, Illinois, and married Miss Lucy Harwood. They moved to Minneapolis and later to Elk Point, South Dakota. Captain Duncan served in the legislature of the Dakota Territory for several terms. In 1901 they purchased the farm still occupied by their descendants in Leon township on the banks of the Little Cannon River about four miles south of Cannon Falls. There the great soldier spent the remainder of his life. On February 4, 1925, he died. The life that began July 22, 1840, on a farm near Edinburgh, Scotland, ended on the banks of the Little Cannon River. Just before he died the Captain called for his sword to be brought to him. Taking the sword he presented it to his grandson, William Duncan, saying, "Keep it; that sword has never been dishonored." Within the same hour his wife also died. On February 7 they were buried. The Legionnaires fired the final salutes and taps concluded the story of the man the rebels could not kill.

Leonard A. Rosing

Cannon Falls lost one of its most distinguished citizens when Leonard A. Rosing passed away on April 14, 1909 in St. Paul.

Mr. Rosing was born in Malmo, Sweden, on August 29, 1861, and came with his parents, to Minnesota when he was eight years old. The family settled on a farm near Cannon Falls, and he received his education in the common schools. In 1886, he married Miss May B. Season, and took up his residence in town here. In 1888, he became a member of the firm of Rosing and Kraft, retail shoe dealers, and remained in that business until 1905 when he became a member of the state board of control.

Quoting from a St. Paul paper: "He took an active part in politics early, first as a Republican, but left that party on the tariff issue in 1890. He was Democratic candidate for state senator in 1894, and in 1896 became chairman of the state central committee. In that capacity he managed the three Lind campaigns for governor and developed a high order of managerial ability.

"When John Lind was elected in 1898, he made Mr. Rosing his private secretary, and he served in that capacity for two years. In 1902 he was made the candidate of his party for governor. He contended against the second-term candidacy of Van Sant and was defeated.

"In 1904 Mr. Rosing was associated in the management of the campaign when John A. Johnson was first elected governor, and in the following spring he was appointed by Governor Johnson to the state board of control. On taking this appointment he retired from his business in Cannon Falls and moved to St. Paul."

Mr. Rosing's funeral was one of the largest ever held in Cannon Falls. A special train over the Great Western brought a large delegation from the Twin Cities, including such notable men as Governor John A. Johnson, former Governor John Lind, Hon. P. M. Ringdahl of the Board of Control, Hon. Frank A. Day, private secretary to the governor, Hon. T. D. O'Brien and Hon. Timothy O'Connor, all of whom acted as honorary pallbearers. In addition to these, representatives from all of the state departments were present.

Newspapers throughout the state carried tributes to Mr. Rosing but we quote only a brief one from the Beacon which was printed the day of the funeral: "In the death of Leonard A. Rosing, Cannon Falls loses a son in whom she took much pride, a citizen to whose loyalty and public spirit she is in many ways indebted, a man of goodly deeds, lofty aspirations and a high sense of honor. In Mr. Rosing Cannon Falls gave to the state the best she had; she has never had occasion to deny him or excuse herself for him and she feels today that in his passing Minnesota is deprived of the services of a most able, sincere and devoted public servant."

Mrs. Elizabeth Rosing Shellenbarger is a granddaughter of Mr. Rosing.

Gilbert Albin Youngberg

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Retired

Born on February 12, 1875, son of Peter and Christine Branfelt Youngberg, natives of Sweden, who settled in the township of Belle Creek in 1868. Later the family moved to Cannon Falls. Col. Youngberg attended the public school at Cannon Falls, Carleton College, Northfield, the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1900, with high honors. In 1906 he graduated from the Army staff college at Ft. Leavenworth, Kas., and in 1910 from the Army war college in Washington. He saw service with the Army of Occupation in Cuba and in the Philippines.

Col. Youngberg was appointed Captain of Engineers in 1907, promoted to Major in 1913, and in 1917 was made Colonel of Engineers, National Army.

He served all through World War I in France and was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief as Brigadier General.

In 1926, after more than 30 years of army service, at his own request, he retired from the army and is living at his home in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Panic Of 1857

The town site of Cannon Falls was laid out by William and Richard Freeborn who dedicated it on August 27, 1855. The first election was held in Cannon Falls on the 2nd Tuesday of October, 1855. The election officers met at the Falls House. On the morning of the election it was discovered that there was no one nearer than Red Wing qualified to administer oaths. It would be impossible to get to Red Wing and back in time to still have the election. The judges of the election decided they would each read the required oath out loud, then write it and sign their name. To these documents the following was attached, "We Andrus Durand, Wm. Thomas and Chas. Parks hereby certify that before opening the polls of this election we and each of us took and subscribed the following oath." The election district of Cannon Falls was bounded on the east by Belle Creek, on the south by the north branch of the Zumbro River, on the west by Rice County and on the north by Dakota County. In all this area there were only thirteen legal voters.

The village was incorporated on March 10, 1857. The first election of officers was held the first Wednesday in May, 1857. They were Chas. Parks, president; Wm. Tanner, recorder; J. E. Chapman, Thomas Baker and George McKenzie, councilmen. The population was about 1200 people. Some were only here temporarily and had no intention of staying but it was a thriving place nevertheless. The land boom was at its peak. Everyone had more money than he knew what to do with. To become rich all you needed was a pocket full of deeds and a hazy idea of where there was some land to sell. There were purchases and resales at a fantastic rate, and a more fantastic profit. There was no end to the money in the real estate business. Everyone was caught in the spell. Towns were platted and laid out that never had or could hope to exist. People bought everything available. Interest rates were phenomenal, sometimes running as high as a straight 36 per cent per year. When money was needed there was no problem. The private banks just printed another bale or two of bills.

Then it happened; the gigantic bubble burst. Banks went under, insurance companies failed, and finally the stock market crashed. The money that was so plentiful was now worthless. There was nothing to back it up. Terrible battles raged over ownership of land. The entire state of affairs was a hopeless confusion. People left the area as rapidly as they had appeared. There was no way to make a living at Cannon Falls. Men worked for board and room or at 5c an hour and boarded themselves. Buildings stood vacant and many were moved into the rural areas. Businesses closed their doors and business men simply left, lock, stock and barrel. The population dropped to about 300 in the next year. The village charter was abandoned and was not revived until 1874 when the city was again incorporated.

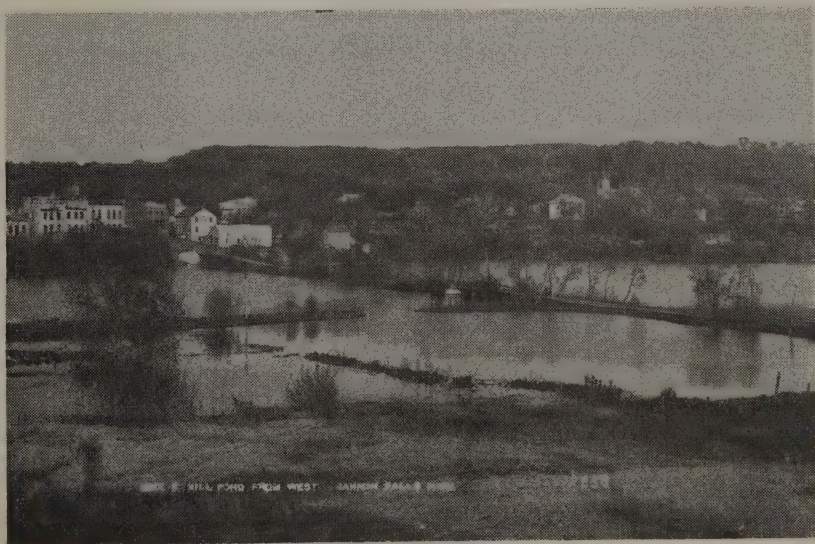
A slower, more deliberate approach to prosperity took form about 1862 and of course the Civil War caused the temporary type of prosperity that wars always bring.

Those who remained were much wiser. They felt the effects of the Panic of 1857 for a long, long time.

The Man-Made Cave of Newton Jenny

There is a spot about 5 miles south of Cannon Falls on the Little Cannon River which some of the old timers will recall as being the place where Newton Jenny dug a cave. It is in Section 7 of Leon township on what is now the farm of Robert Elchuk.

Newton Jenny was considered by some a little eccentric. He was a hard working and devout individual but his efforts just never seemed to get him anywhere. It was about the close of the Civil War when a strange sect of religious belief spread in the area of Cannon Falls. The religion embraced the idea that absolute and pure simplicity of life was the only means to salvation. The meetings of the sect sent the ardor of the converts to a high pitch. Men and women saw visions and there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth. Newton Jenny became an earnest believer in the new sect. He attended all the meetings, practiced all the ritual and was ever alert to the descriptions of those who experienced the visions. One leader of this new sect, Mary Swartz, seemed to have more than her share of visions. On one occasion a vision revealed that in the center of a hill of Newton Jenny's farm was a gigantic pot of gold. She told Newton of this revelation and he immediately set to work to recover the treasure. It is thought he worked at the project from about 1865 to 1870. In order that the secret of the vision be kept, Newton Jenny always dug for the gold at night. He never found the pot of gold but the cave, about 40 feet in length and about 7 feet in height, hewn into sheer stone, still remains as a testimonial of his misguided efforts. You would have to say of Newton Jenny though — he had perseverance. The religious sect has since disappeared, as has Newton Jenny.



View of the Old Mill Pond

The Vasa Cyclone

The following account of the Vasa cyclone is a combination of available written material and the recollection of A. J. Hyllengren. Although a small boy at the time Mr. Hyllengren vividly recalls the tragic event.

July 2, 1879, had been a hot and humid day. There was no breeze and the atmosphere seemed to hang like a heavy veil. About 10 p.m. the sky darkened to a coal blackness and a deep silence settled even heavier over the area of Vasa. Then the wind suddenly started to blow hard. The devastation commenced near the center of the south line of Section 16 and moved in a northerly direction. Mr. Hyllengren recalls that their family went to the basement of their home. Shortly they heard someone knocking on their door and Mr. Hyllengren's father answered to find a small boy about nine years old, very frightened and without clothes standing at the door. The boy said that the Orphans Home had been hit by the storm. Mr. Hyllengren's father lit the lantern and started for the Orphans Home. There he found total destruction of the building, three children dead and many injured.

The wind destroyed the granery on Charles Roos' farm. Next it demolished the house of Mr. Turnquist. Next the home of the Lindstedts, killing their small son and injuring four others of the household. Next the house of N. Anderson was shattered and also a building belonging to P. Jonson. The destruction of the Orphans Home was complete, three children were killed outright and sixteen others injured seriously, one later dying. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Holm was shattered and both were killed. A son Gustaf died later of injuries. Then the storm hit the home of E. Swenson. He was killed and a four-year-old daughter later died of injuries. The home of Frank Hallberg was destroyed and their child was killed. Most of the buildings of the area were damaged in a greater or lesser degree. The roof of the parsonage was torn completely off.

Then it was quiet again. Eleven persons were dead and much of Vasa was rubble. Mr. Hyllengren muses that the thing most impressed on the mind of a little boy was that his mother dressed the orphan who came to their door in Mr. Hyllengren's shirt and pants and on the pants were his new suspenders.

Van Campen's Hall

After the fire of May, 1884, B. H. Van Campen, (Ben Van Campen's grandfather) replaced the wooden building which burned, with the brick and stone building now occupied by Kartes' Store. The second floor was made into a larger hall with stage and dressing rooms and a good dance floor. An outside stairway led up from the main street.

From the date of the hall's completion, Van Campen's hall was Cannon Falls' place for entertainment, lectures, concerts, home talent and school plays, political meetings and church suppers, and of course, dances, to say nothing of traveling shows. High school graduations were held there until about 1899, when more room being needed, they were held in St. Ansgar's church.

In 1927 the Masonic lodge purchased the building, as well as the single building next to it, on the north and public gatherings were then held in Kruse hall, the upper floor of the Lee Chevrolet garage, until the High school gymnasium was built in the '30s.



THE BASEBALL TEAM OF 1887 — Left to right, standing, Ed Wilson, Sid Swanson, Justus Swanson, Dick Dibble, Fred Hillman; seated, Will Platt, manager, Fred Alpstag, Frank Barlow, Clarence Stevenson, Jim Wheat.

Baseball

Cannon Falls has always had a great enthusiasm for baseball. The current team of Suburban League Thespians had their forerunners here over 80 years ago. Great competitors have graced these diamonds and several have gone on into the professional ranks.

Almost 85 years ago there was Ab Hollister and Wallace Van Guilder who were later offered contracts with the old New York Knickerbockers. There was Orville Kilroy who pitched for both St. Paul and Minneapolis. There was Ed. Wilson who played with Aberdeen and his son, George Wilson, who played with Marshalltown. There was Andy McKenzie, Fred Hillman, Mart Anderson, Joe Woodward, Henry Schurch, Charlie Lano, John Taylor, Thore Johnson, Jim Trench, Andy Lee and a long, long list of others who contributed to the spirit and reputation of Cannon Falls as a "baseball town."

The first diamond was located on the hill just southwest of where Al Sheer now has his gravel pit. This diamond was used until about 1915 when a diamond was built in the fairgrounds in front of the grand stand. This diamond was used regularly until the latter part of the 1920's.

There was a period of time when Cannon Falls had no team. With the regaining of interest the current Athletic field was built. It is one of the finest in this area and the city boasts of a team which has won five suburban League Championships and were state champions in 1952.

The Cannon Falls Band

In 1938 Sam Bancroft had played in the Cannon Falls band for 66 years and at the final concert that season, the band paid him a verbal tribute and presented him with a purse from the people of the town. Sam was only ten years old when his father joined a newly organized band and took the small boy with him. There were eight other members, he told a Beacon reporter in 1938, namely J. L. Scofield, Theodore Newell, Peter Johnson, Ackley Plumstead, Will Hillman, Will Mallett, Claus Swanson and Charles Wolliver.

This band evidently did not last long after their 1872 start because the Beacon tells in February 1878 that a newly organized brass band was improving rapidly. From then on the band must have functioned continuously.

Some time in the 1890's an octagonal band stand was erected and placed head high, to be better seen and heard. There were no buildings between the bus depot and the Coast-to-Coast store and it stood there until the space was built up. After that the stand was on the Lundberg Furniture corner for a time and then moved to the East Side Park. Two different hired leaders took charge of the band up to the time the High School Music instructor took over and the present Band shell was built on the Athletic field.



This picture of the Cannon Falls band was taken in 1886. Col. Gilbert Youngberg is the only member now living. From left to right they are: Minie Platt, Tom Nelson, Sam Bancroft, Charles Danielson, Henry Wenz, Johnny Carlson, Bert Youngberg, Ed. Widholm, John Falck, Fred Youngberg, Charles Westman, Jake Fraley, Andy Fuglie.

Clifford Gress' Party

It was two days before the Fourth of July, 1893. Six boys stood and gazed longingly and sadly at the fireworks in a store window. A young Cannon Falls banker watched the boys. He knew their thoughts. He could see how much they wanted those fire crackers. He walked over to the boys and handed each one a quarter.

Thus began one of the most popular annual events in the history of Cannon Falls. The young banker was Clifford W. Gress and the boys



Cliff W. Gress' Party

who received those first quarters were men passed middle age when the final quarters were distributed more than 35 years later. From the giving of those first six quarters the idea grew and the event became a great 3rd of July picnic with free ice cream and quarters for all children under 14 years of age. From the giving of those first six quarters the number grew to 12, then 50, then 150 and so on, until in the later years of the event the number grew to over 1,000.

Men who had themselves stood in line waiting for their quarters, some 15 years before, now brought their children. Mr. Gress was getting older, they could see that, but in the eyes of a child, he was always the same good and generous man who gave them ice cream and quarters. He was truly the "Summer Santa Claus," and many were the tears from confused children when they were told of his passing, and that there would be no more gatherings on the 3rd of July, no more ice cream, no more quarters.

There is no way of knowing how much money Mr. Gress gave away at his parties. It is certain that it would total several thousands of dollars. However, that is not important compared to the joy and happiness that he gave to so many thousands of boys and girls.

When Electric Lights Replaced Kerosene

The first electric light plant in Cannon Falls was built and operated by Robert and Fred Valentine, backed by their father, David Valentine. The street lights were first turned on October 1, 1896. Compared with present day electric service, it would seem pitiful, but to the housewife who had to clean and fill kerosene lamps, it seemed a great convenience.

Electricity was turned on along toward dark and off at 12 o'clock. Some time later they began to sell electric irons with the promise that electricity would be available on Tuesday forenoons. One of the first women to avail herself of the convenience, placed her iron on the ironing board and went to a neighbors to wait for it to heat. Giving it the length of time she supposed it would need to heat she came back to find it had burned through the board and was hanging by the cord. Fortunately there was no draft to set the cloth and board aflame.

In 1901 Mr. Valentine sold the plant to John Kilroy and Edward Peters, who in 1903 sold to the Cannon River Electric and Power Co. According to the Beacon files they planned to buy the Phoenix mill and run the dynamo with waterpower. This plan, however, never materialized.

In the fall of 1906 the plant burned to the ground and the town was without electricity until L. F. Blinco came here from Zumbrota and rebuilt in 1908. This plant served the residents until the Consumers Power Company were ready to deliver current from the big plant at the dam.



Area West of Dam — Now Under Water

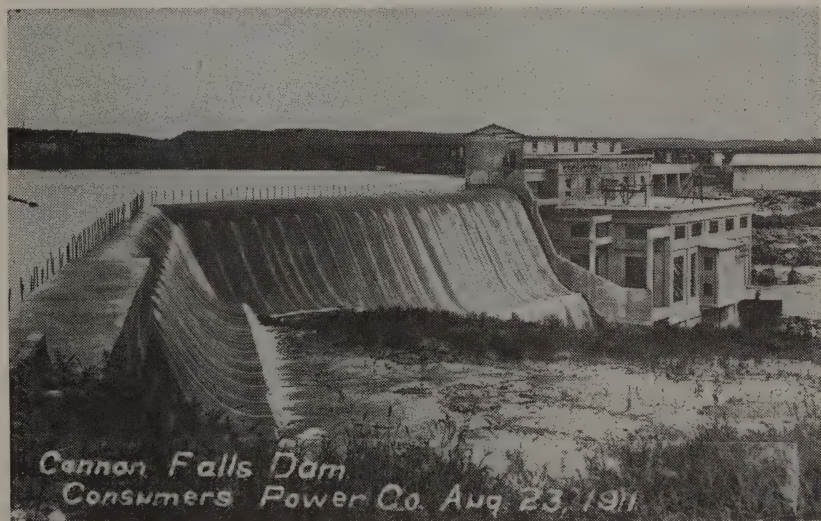
The Power Plant on the Big Cannon River

For many years prior to 1910 there had been a great deal of discussion of the possibilities of a power plant on the Big Cannon river.

An ideal place for the dam seemed to be about one and one-half miles west of town. Early in 1910 the Consumers Power Company, working with the Commercial club decided work should be started and this dream be made a reality. The actual building supervision was let to the H. M. Byllesby Co. of Chicago, Ill.

Work was begun on April 1, 1910. The first concrete was poured June 14. The total length of the concrete work was 1007 feet. The total length of the dam was 1125 feet. The length of the spillways was 4141 feet. The height of crest above tail water was 55.5 feet. The height of the bulkheads above tail water was 61.5 feet, and the height of embankments above tail water was 64 feet. The power house was 54 feet by 92 feet. The extreme height of the structure was 87.25 feet above foundations. The dam contained 16,500 yards of reinforced concrete, using 23,500 barrels of cement and 750,000 pounds of reinforcing steel. The total rock excavation was 21,500 cubic yards, the total earth excavation was 17,000 cubic yards and the total embankment and fill was 17,000 cubic yards.

The work was completed in less than 10 months which was in itself a very successful engineering accomplishment.

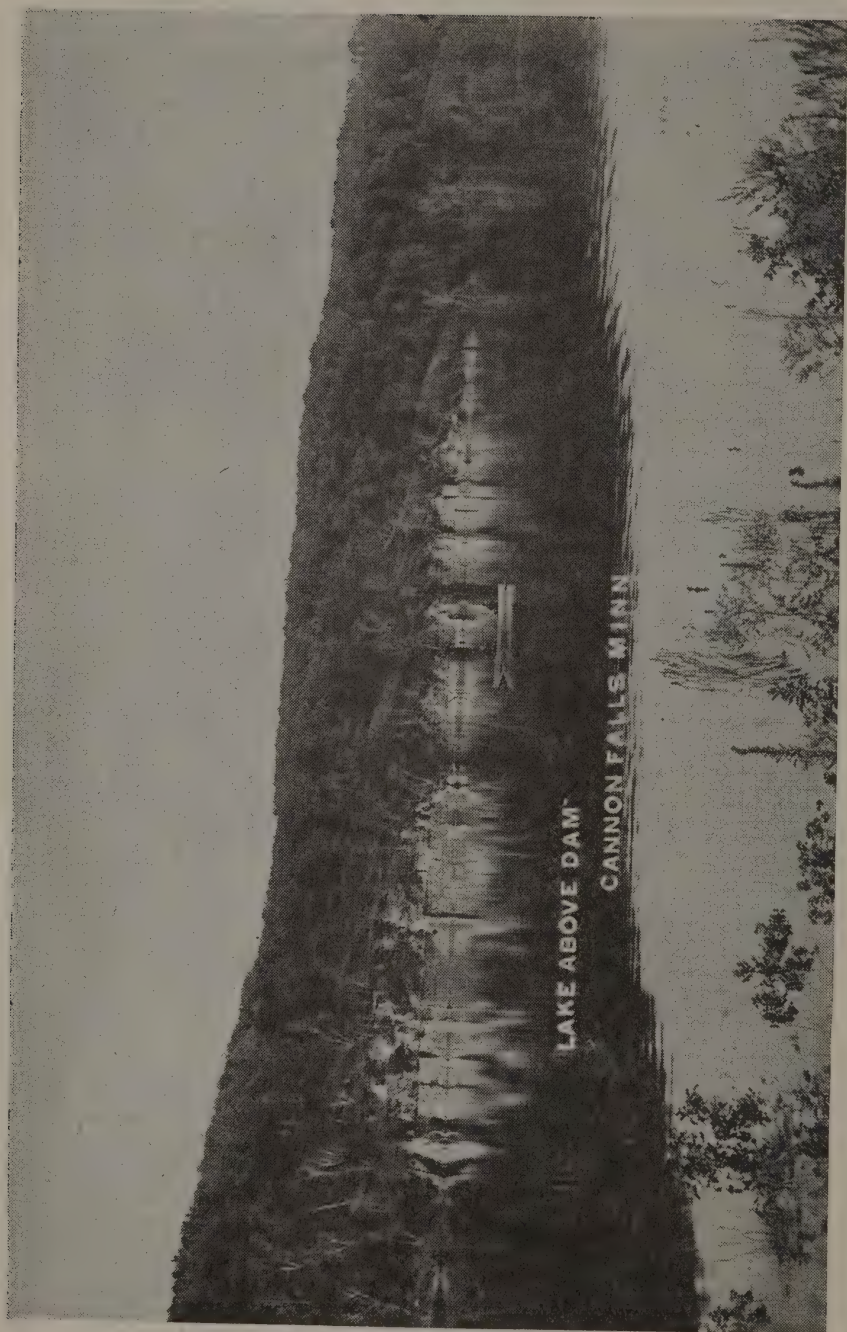


Mutual Lodge No. 40 - A. O. U. W.

This Lodge was organized January 30, 1878. The charter members were S. Higham, G. A. Follet, G. H. Cross, S. Hanson, William Smith, H. H. Manning, Myron D. Gibbs, O. T. Jones, W. H. Scofield, C. E. Daniels, J. L. Scofield, E. Holden and A. L. Cawley.

Alleghany Lodge No. 40 - I. O. O. F.

This lodge was organized January 3, 1872. The charter members were M. E. Henderson, J. W. Newell, George McKenzie, J. W. Neff, and E. L. Clark.



Order of the Eastern Star

Zion Chapter was organized January 5, 1877 in the Masonic hall on the West side. The first officers installed were Worthy Matron, Mrs. Mary West; Associate Matron, Mrs. Susan Wilson; Treasurer, Miss Lillian Blood; Secretary, Mrs. Louise Gibbs; Conductress, Mrs. Mattie Miller; Associate Conductress, Miss Alice Finney; Warder, Mrs. Sarah Wench; Sentinel, Charles J. Gardiner; Adah, Miss Cora Scofield; Ruth, Mrs. Ann Denning; Esther, Mrs. Sarah Fotherby; Martha, Mrs. Rosie R. Blood; Electa, Mrs. E. Smith; Worthy Patron, George West.

In 1879 the meetings were discontinued. On January 5, 1899, the chapter was reorganized by P. H. White, worthy grand patron, with fourteen of the original members. The chapter worked under Dispensation until in May, when it was constituted by Mary C. Taylor, past grand matron of Minnesota. They were allowed to keep the original name and number, Zion Chapter, No. 6. The present membership is 225.

Oriental Lodge No. 34 - A. F. & A. M.

The records show, that the history of Masonry, as an organization in Cannon Falls begins on June 15, 1860. The meetings were held in the school house when it was organized and constituted. Later a chapter room was built on the west side, and in a few years a building was constructed on Fourth street. This building was sold in 1927 and the lodge purchased the Van Campen and Danielson buildings on Fourth street and the second floor was fitted for lodge rooms.

The first officers installed were John L. Armington, worshipful master; Joseph E. Chapman, senior warden; George L. Baker, junior warden; William D. Hale, secretary; David L. Davis, treasurer; William P. Scofield, senior deacon; George West, junior deacon; John A. Wilson, senior steward; Robert H. Knox, junior steward; Rev. E. R. Lathrop, chaplain; William Morell, tyler.

The Octogenarian Club

A few years ago the old men of St. Ansgar's Lutheran church, and there were many, were very good friends and made it a practice to celebrate their birthdays by staging a party to which the whole group was invited. It was found that in this group most of the men were eighty or more years old. They were all born in Sweden excepting one who came from Norway, and they were all members of the same church.

On September 29, 1928, at Stephen Lundin's party, they decided to organize a club. S. S. Lewis had called them the Octogenarians, which pleased them so much that they decided to adopt the name. Rules and regulations were drawn up. It was decided that no one was eligible to membership unless he were eighty or more. Each member was to invite the group to celebrate his birthday at a party in his home. The party was to begin with Scripture reading and prayer by the Pastor of their church, who was always to be invited. In his absence, a member of the club was to take his place. It was decided that no dues were necessary and no officers were needed with the exception of secretary. At this meeting P. N. Allen was chosen for that office.

Pictures were taken at each party and an account of the event was published in the Beacon. Many cards and messages of congratulation

were received at each gathering, and Clyde Young, florist of Cannon Falls, made it a practice to send a bouquet of red or pink roses whenever they met. Nothing he could have done would have pleased them more.

When a member of the club died, the group sent flowers for the funeral and the surviving members served as honorary pallbearers.

Since a club of this kind was unique, it received much publicity. At one of the meetings the secretary read a clipping from a paper published in Stockholm in which the statement was made that it was "the only club of its kind in the whole world." This pleased them very much and they were very proud.

Soon Mr. Allen became ill and, as he was unable to act as secretary, the members chose Emma Burggren to succeed him. She had been acting as "consultant" from the beginning. They depended on her to get them "spruced up" before pictures were taken and to help them plan menus for the parties. To show their appreciation they voted to give her a life membership in the club. She promised to accept the honor on condition that she be permitted to keep as her own the book containing the secretary's reports. This she was allowed to do.

The original membership of this club was as follows: P. N. Allen, C. J. Anderson, Swan Bloom, Charles Burggren, Peter Chelgren, Alfred Johnson, Stephen Lundin, J. F. Moline, Gustaf Nelson, N. C. Olson, John Peterson, John Selander, Joe Swanson, John Swenson, and John Wahl. A. N. Bergstrom was sometimes invited but was not admitted to membership until his eightieth birthday.



THE OCTOGENARIANS

Standing from left to right—P. N. Allen, Swan Bloom, N. C. Olson, Steven Lundin, John Swanson. Seated—Fred Moline, Peter Chelgren, C. J. Anderson, Charles Burggren, Alfred Johnson.



GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

This picture taken in the 1920s shows G. A. R. members living at that time. From left to right they are: Frank Deline, Ole Olson, Charles Sherd, Alex. McKinley, Charles Burggren and Fred Van Guilder.

Our Oldest Business Houses

The four oldest businesses in Cannon Falls are the Falls House, 99 years, Scofield Bros., 86 years, the Beacon, founded 78 years ago and the First National Bank whose 75th birthday was celebrated last year, 1953. The first three have been reviewed in previous sketches.

The First National Bank of Cannon Falls opened on the tenth of June 1878 with Stephen Gardner as president, William P. Tanner as vice president, and L. S. Follett as cashier. Three years later Mr. Follett gained a controlling interest and operated it as a private bank, Citizens Bank, by name. In 1886 it was purchased by Hiram A. Scriver, with C. W. Gress becoming a partner in 1893. Securing a national charter in 1933 it again became the First National Bank. Arthur T. Scriver has been president since the death of Mr. Gress in 1936.

There are a number of other business houses which have carried on in the same place with a series of proprietors.

A dry goods store has occupied the building on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Fourth streets since sometime in the eighties. Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kartes have conducted a department store there for about twenty-five years. In 1887 C. B. Johnson built the stone and brick building now occupied by Althoff and Sons. He conducted a hardware store there until about 1910 when he sold out to J. H. Carlson. In 1933 William Althoff purchased it from Mr. Carlson so that hardware business is 67 years old.

The Kraft shoe store has much the same history. In 1888 H. A. Van Campen began to sell "boots and shoes" in that building, taking

L. A. Rosing as a partner soon after. In 1890 Samuel Kraft came to Cannon Falls from Hastings and was employed by them as a clerk. In 1892 he bought Mr. Van Campen's interest in the store and in 1908 bought out Mr. Rosing and was sole proprietor until 1949 when he sold to his son, Seymour.

About the same time a restaurant was started on the west side of Fourth street that after passing through the hands of a number of proprietors is the Sweet Shop now, conducted by Hjalmer Olson and his son, Maurice.

Perhaps it was about 1890 that August Eckloff bought O. J. Hawkins' harness business. Hjalmer Olson came from Sweden, worked for Mr. Eckloff, married Mrs. Eckloff's sister and bought out the business. Then along came Oscar Lindahl in 1905, worked for Hjalmer, married Mr. Eckloff's daughter and became a partner in 1918. As the work horse began to fade from the picture, auto and tractor repair took the place of harness making and mending. In 1946 Gordon Lindahl bought out Mr. Olson and became his father's partner. It is now the Lindahl Tire and Battery Service. It is like the pair of socks the man said he had had for years. Sometimes his wife knit on new feet and sometimes new legs but they were the same pair of socks. So, Lindahl's Tire and Battery Service is the same business as O. J. Hawkins' Harness Shop.

Edward Bremer started working for his brother, George, in the meat market in 1892. Later it was Bremer Bros. for years and now is Edward Bremer and Sons, but this record seems to make Mr. Bremer the business man with the most years in active business, as he is still doing his day's work with the rest.



The First Fair

The Scandinavian Benevolent Society

The Scandinavian Benevolent Society was long a prominent organization in Cannon Falls. It was organized August 9, 1872, and the charter members numbers 17. It was disbanded a few years ago.



Conclusion

There you have the result of the work of our committee. We have enjoyed compiling this booklet. We hope you have enjoyed reading it. If time had permitted we would like to have brought the edition up to the current day. There are hundreds of events and persons worthy of record and each new day brings additional important topics. As stated before, we realize our booklet has its limitations and short comings, but it has been our best effort in the time we have been allotted.

Perhaps for the Cannon Falls celebration of its second century in the year 2054 another committee will pick up the pen and compile another booklet dealing with the ancient history of 1954 when man traveled by automobile at a snail's pace of 80 miles per hour, when houses were still heated by burning coal, when electric energy was used for lighting, when the atomic bomb could barely wreck a city, when it still took almost half a day to cross the country by jet airplane and when coffee was \$1.20 per pound.

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Mrs. Anna Smith
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Centennial Activities

CENTENNIAL SQUARE DANCE

Monday, May 24th—School Gym

CENTENNIAL BALL

Wednesday, June 2nd—School Gym

CENTENNIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Sunday Evening, June 13—Band Shell

GIANT CENTENNIAL PARADE

Saturday, July 3rd—Main Street

Parade ends at Athletic Field, followed by speed boat display on the "Old Mill Pond" and the Beards and Belles Judging Contest.

CANNON VALLEY FAIR JULY 2-3-4

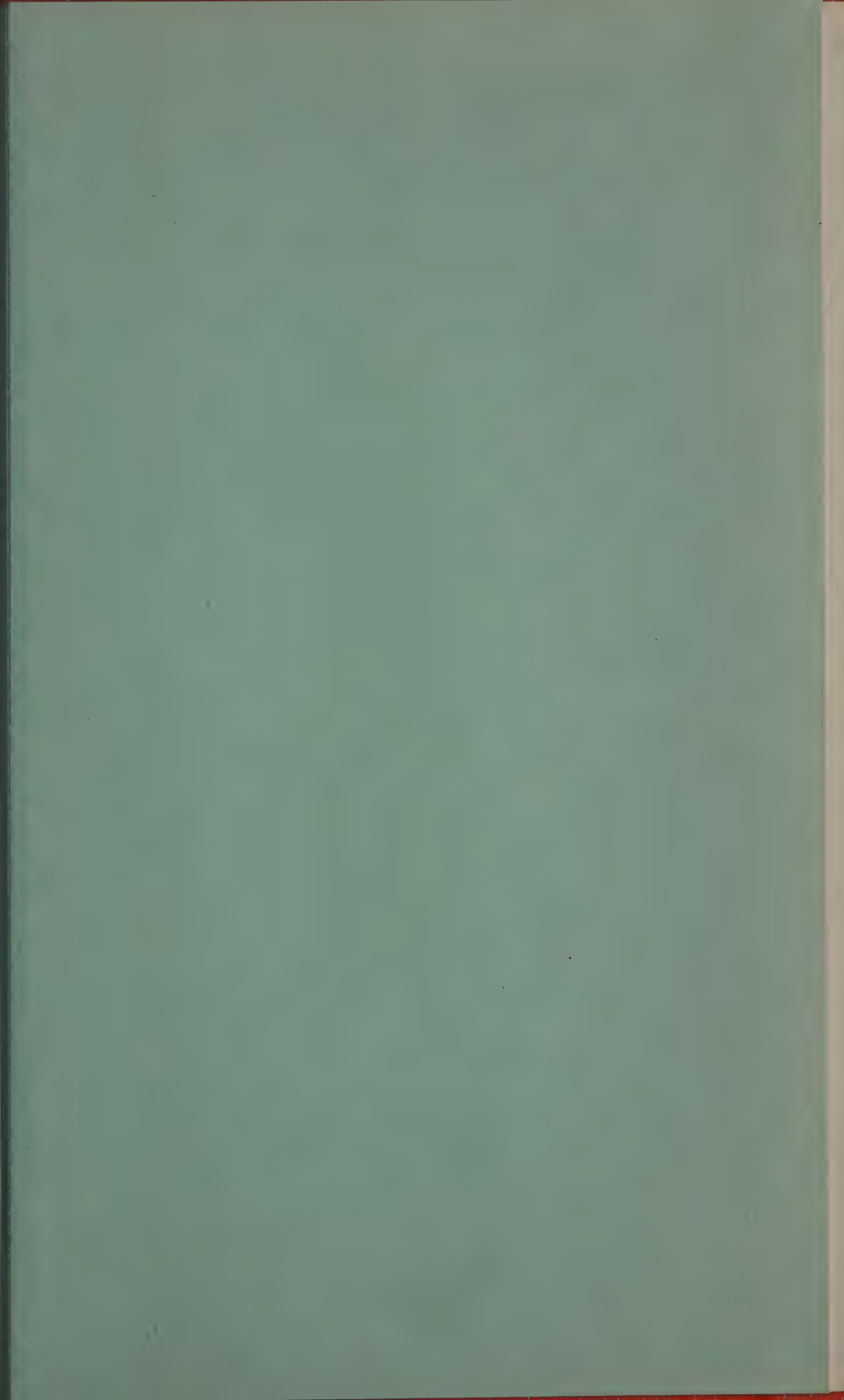
With Centennial Theme

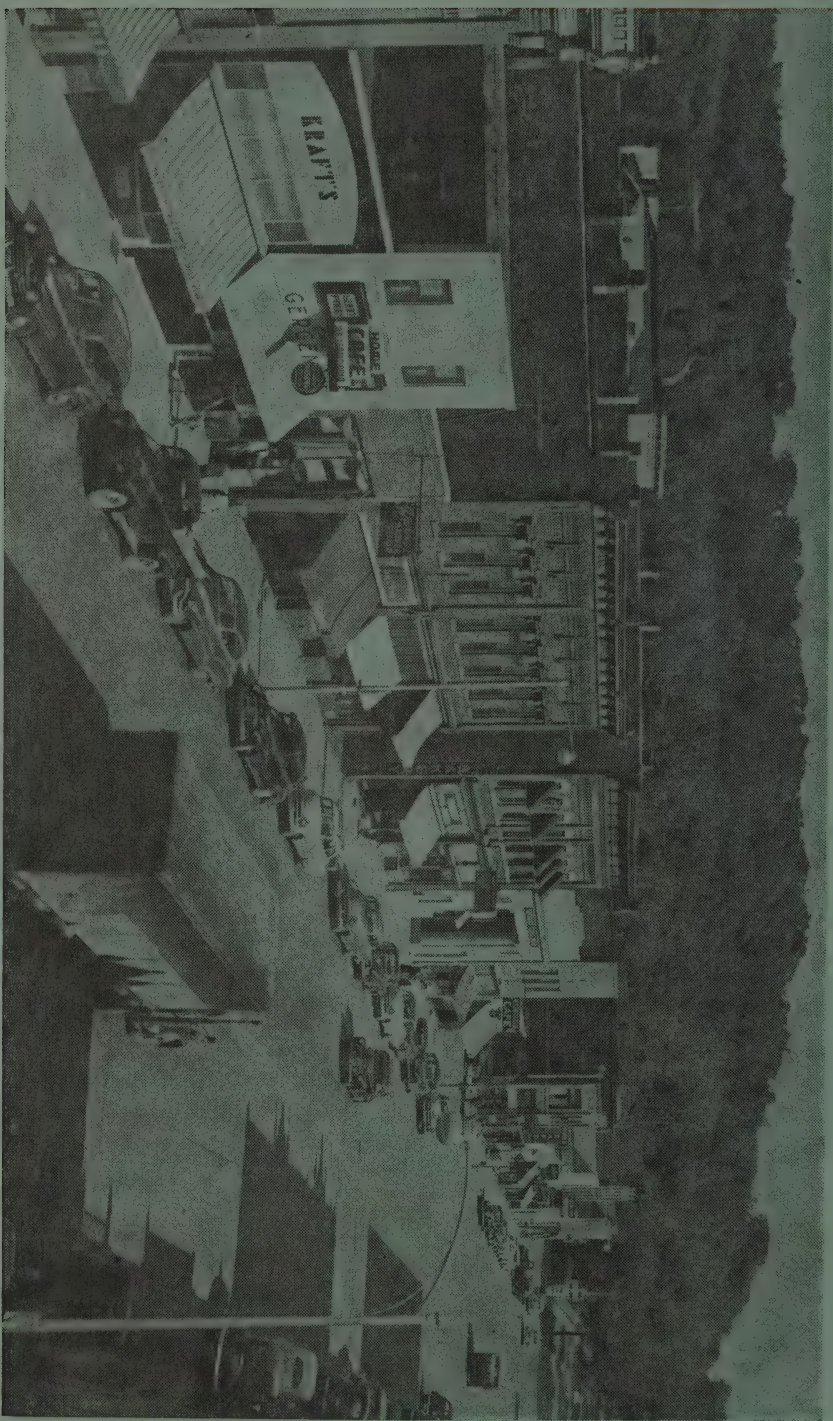
GIANT HOMECOMING DAY

Monday, July 5th—East Side Park

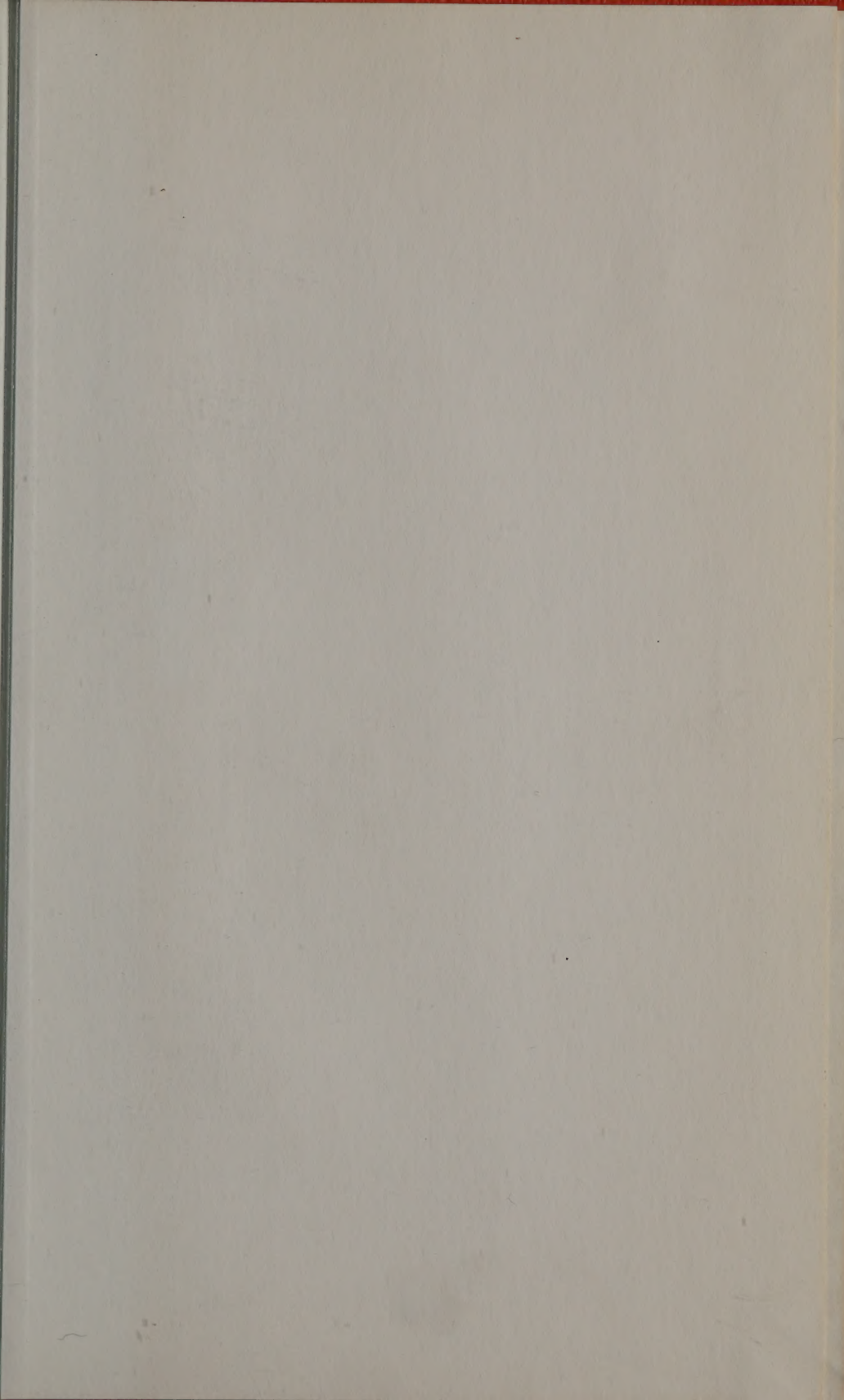
Bring your picnic lunch. Free coffee. Meet your old friends and reminisce.

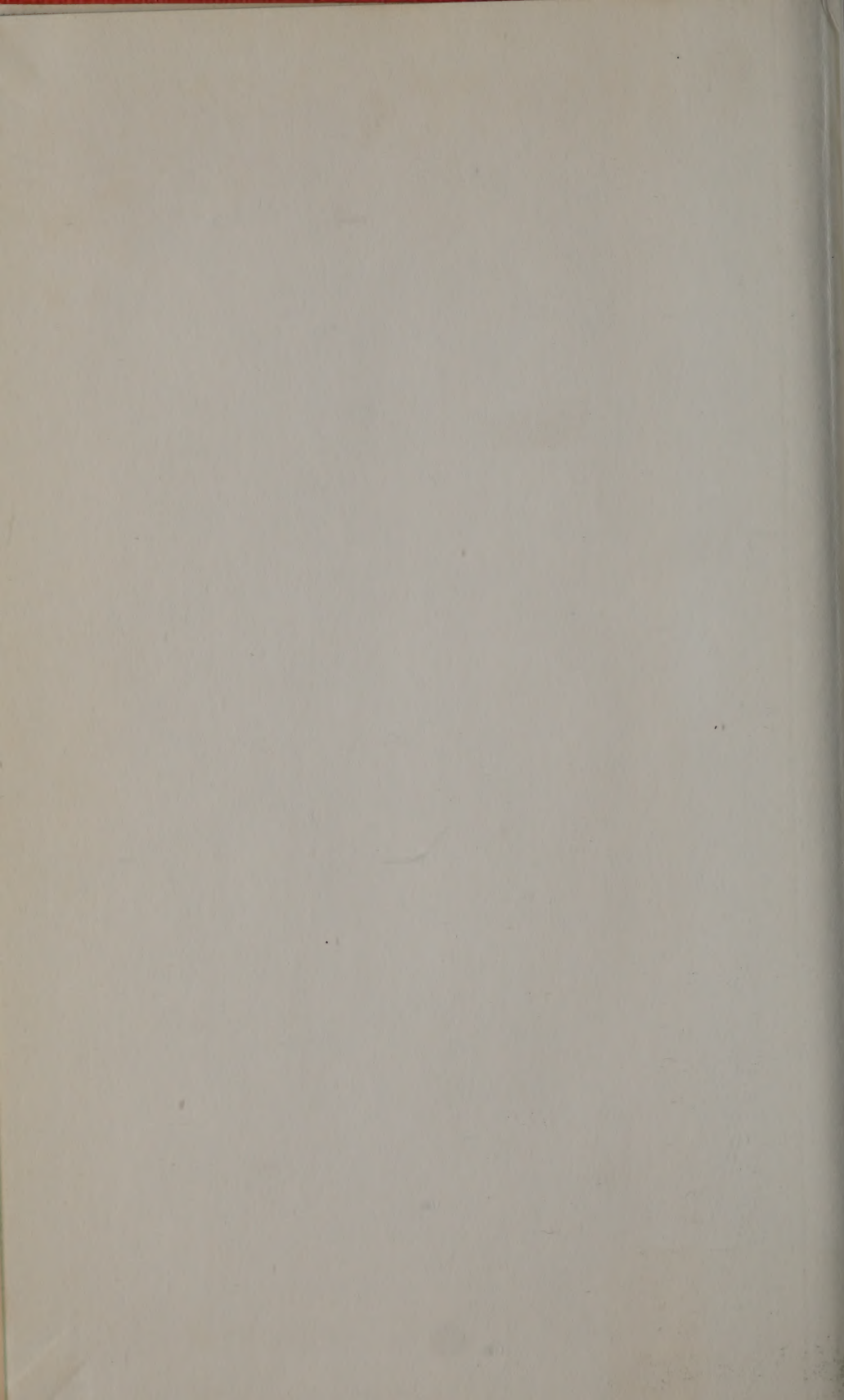
(Printed by the Cannon Falls Beacon—June, 1954)





CANNON FALLS TODAY - 1934







JAN. 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

